


rised to know that one of the most important information technology exhibitions in the world is being held in Amman. The exhibition, known as GITEK, is the largest information technology exhibition in the Middle East. It is a must-see for anyone interested in the latest developments in information technology. The exhibition is held at the Jordanian Exhibition Centre, and it is open to the public. The exhibition is a great opportunity to see the latest in information technology, and it is a must-see for anyone interested in the field.

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



Arab Bank

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1996 and 1995

See pages 3 & 4



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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Experts say water crisis could spell disaster in few years

At GITEK '96 and the Jordanian Exhibition Centre, a high profile, well-known information technology exhibition is being held. The exhibition is a must-see for anyone interested in the latest developments in information technology. It is a great opportunity to see the latest in information technology, and it is a must-see for anyone interested in the field.

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

MANY SEE it as a seasonal water shortage, but Jordan's water crisis is here to stay and no matter how hard the government tries to overutilize existing resources or develop new ones, the water challenge remains one of the most daunting for the Kingdom and the region.

One major factor that keeps the pressure building and the crisis looming is population. That problem is being shared by Jordan, Palestine and Israel—three countries where water resources are scarce and population growth high.

Experts agree that no less than 80 percent of water resources in these territories are used for irrigation. They say that existing water resources in the three countries are able to support between 4.5 to five million people. "We have today a population of 12 million," said Dr. Munther Hadadin, a prominent international expert on water affairs, who also headed the Jordanian delegation on water at the multilateral peace talks.

"That shows that it is not the fault of water resources, it is rather over-population. And we know how that was caused, we



Water shortage: A lingering problem

In Jordan, the individual daily share of water is 85 liters compared to about 300 liters in Israel, while it is only 10 liters in Gaza Strip. However, the daily individual share in the US is 600 liters and in Canada it is 400 liters.

Water experts believe that the problem that needs urgent

of rainfall in Jordan fluctuates between 50 to 600 mm annually, compared to 2000 mm annually in Turkey.

The total annual rate of rainfall is estimated at eight billion cubic meters, unfortunately, 92 percent of this is evaporated while the rest feeds both surface and groundwater resources.

A latest study conducted by the Water Authority, says that the annual average of the renewable water resources is 1620 mcm, 715 mcm of which is surface water, distributed in 18 aquifers and 270 mcm renewable groundwater distributed on 11 aquifers.

These aquifers are targets to illegal extraction, which affects the whole water situation in Jordan. Water Authority sources stated that Al Azraq aquifer, alone, witnessed the drilling of 600 illegal wells. Licenses were given for 200

La Jordanie espère ramener le taux d'analphabétisme sous la barre des 10%

voir page 12

Collective resignations could create constitutional crisis

By Hamdan Al Hajj
Special to The Star

THE RELATIONS between the government and the 22-member opposition deputies have reached an anti-climax. The legislators are threatening to resign their parliamentary seats and create a constitutional crisis. Their collective threat to resign has already sent alarm bells ringing in the corridors of government. If they do carry out their promise then a third of the seats in the House is likely to be empty when the next session of the Lower House meets next October.

During their regular meeting in Parliament, Wednesday, the opposition legislators protested the "deterioration of the economic and political situation in the country," also blaming the "government and its new policies."

The 22-opposition deputies bloc which was formed to protest the government's decision to lift subsidy on bread and animal fodder, criticized the government for "creating a political crisis and escalating tension in the House," repeating their accusations against the government of "insulting Parliament."

They stressed that there will be "no cooperation between the House and this government," which will face more "tension and confrontation."

In a surprising move, the opposition deputies welcomed "early parliamentary elections," to give people the chance to "freely express themselves and choose their representatives, on a clean and just basis."

They demanded a "modern electoral law," that overcomes "the negative features of the one man one vote electoral system."

This raised a lot of questions and there is a widespread talk about the future of the Lower House in political saloons. Indeed because of the tensions, there is an increasing doubt whether the parliamentary session will be held on time. However, the Parliament is expected to meet between 15 and 23 of the month.

Observers pointed out to the possibility of extending the session

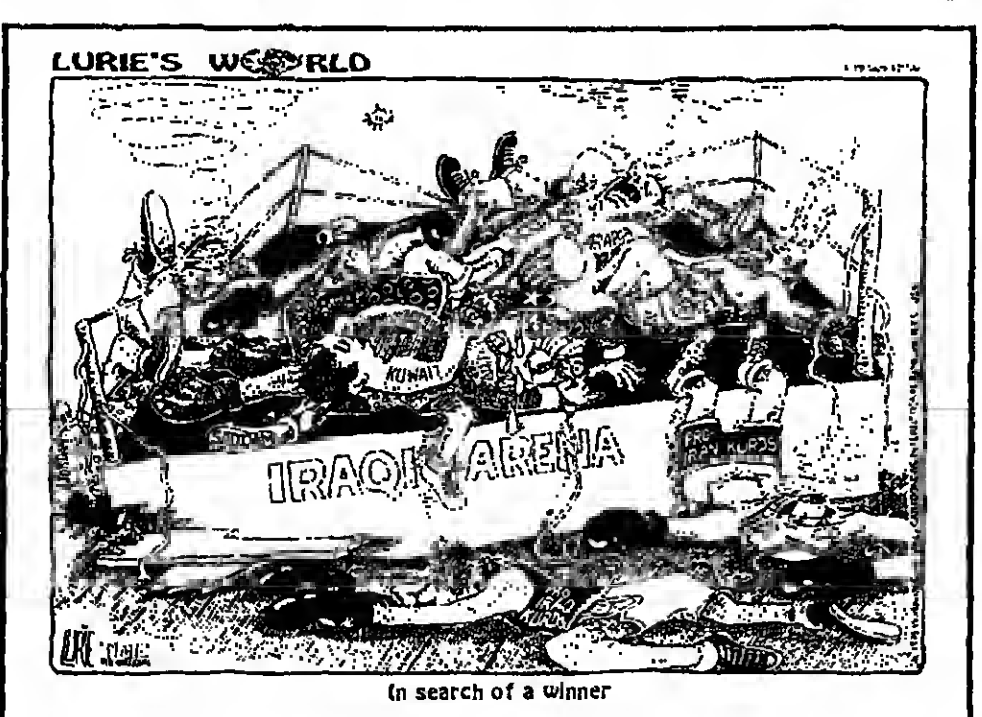
US pushes hard for support against Iraq

By Robin Wright
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—In the current showdown in Iraq, the United States has spent almost as much energy—and arguably more elation—dealing with its friends as it has with Iraq leader Saddam Hussein. But just how much Washington has to show for its efforts has become one of the most controversial aspects of the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait finally agreed to let a few thousand US troops—even the number was contentious—deploy in the tiny sheikdom. But the four-day delay after the Pentagon announced the deployment was a far cry from the plaintive appeals six years ago to dispatch hundreds of thousands of American troops and anything else Washington was prepared to provide to confront Baghdad.

Although the Clinton administration has secured broad support within the United States for its get-tough policy, the embarrassing Kuwait episode is a microcosm of US problems in dealing with key parties in the former 38-member coalition that fought the 1991 Gulf War. It also reflects fundamental differences between "Operation Desert Storm" and the 1996 sequel launched with



ponement of a United Nations deal allowing Baghdad to sell oil so that it can purchase humanitarian supplies.

As frustration deepens over the US inability to rid Iraq of Saddam, Gulf regimes are ready for something decisive. Yet current American tactics

Muslim president wins Bosnian elections

By Tracy Wilkinson
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

SARAJEVO—The Muslim president of Bosnia-Herzegovina has emerged as the country's first postwar election and was headed for a seat in the new three-person presidency designed to force enemies to share power.

Election officials said President Alija Izetbegovic surpassed Momcilo Krajisnik, a hard-line Bosnian Serb nationalist who campaigned on the promise of Serb secession. Krajisnik would take the second spot in the collective presidency.

Whether the two can work together will serve as the basis for the future stability of a country where Muslims, Serbs and Croats battled for 43 months before a US-brokered accord and 60,000 NATO troops brought a fragile peace.

Overall, and as expected, the three ethnic-based nationalist parties that took Bosnia to war were leading in a vote count that has been unusually slow. US-backed opposition parties were for the most part running poor second.

Both Izetbegovic and Krajisnik were assured seats in the presidency but the contest was who would take the highest number of votes and win the chairmanship—and the symbolic and real power that goes with it.



The prospect of a victory by Krajisnik, a close ally of indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, had alarmed the Muslim-led Sarajevo government and especially US officials involved in carrying out the Dayton peace plan and the next complicated phase of building government institutions. John Kornblum, US assistant secretary of state, was dispatched to Sarajevo for the second time in less than a week.

Under the new constitution framed in the peace accord, the Bosnian Serb half of the country elects the Serb member of the presidency, and the other half, the Muslim-Croat Federation, elects a Muslim and a Croat—bowling to the ethnic partition that most analysts regard as permanent and irreversible.

Izetbegovic had roughly 80 percent of the vote cast for Muslim candidates; Krajisnik had more than 70 percent of the vote for Bosnian Serb candidates.

Where Izetbegovic faced only a token challenge in voting by a former prime minister who did not do as well as

US wins on Likson, top 3 at open

Julie Carl
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

prize has been on a road to a US Open. Since 1993 he has been a top contender, and he needed just one more win to become a US Open champion. He has won the US Open twice, in 1993 and 1994. He is a former world number one and has won the Wimbledon singles title in 1994. He is a former world number one and has won the Wimbledon singles title in 1994.

Searchers to probe Swiss banks for gold stolen by Nazis

By William D. Montalbano
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LONDON—As a boy, Sebastian Kornhauser remembers being fascinated by his grandmother's tales of life back in Poland more than half a century ago. But over time, the more he learned, the angrier he got.

What happened to us is an outrage. I want to legally reclaim what has been taken from my family," the Londoner said.

At 21, he may be the youngest player in a suddenly revived quest to recover gold the Nazis stole from conquered nations, Jewish businesses and individ-

ual Jews during World War II. Billions remain in the secure and quiet vaults of Swiss banks, according to a British government report published last week on the heels of new US research. And the Swiss, abandoning their habitual refuge in bank secrecy laws, say they will try to help unravel dormant accounts of Jews who died in the Holocaust.

Meeting Monday, the Swiss Parliament is set to approve legislation allowing the investigation of Jewish assets entrusted to Swiss banks between 1933 and 1945. Auditors for a joint commission of Swiss bankers and Jewish groups headed by Paul Volcker, a former chairman of

APIB opens doors at a capital of \$20 million

IN ANOTHER step to support the Palestinian economy, the Arab Palestine Investment Bank (APIB) was established in Ramallah last June. The APIB general assembly met in Ramallah recently to elect its first board of directors and announce the bank's official opening.

The board, which was chaired by Mr. Abdul Majied Shoman, held its first meeting last Monday at the premises of the Arab Bank. Its capital is \$20 million. The Arab Bank's contribution is 55 percent, World Bank 25 percent, German Development and Investment Corp., 15 percent and the Enterprise Investment Co., five percent.

The Bank's activities cover granting short and mid-term loans to investment, industrial, agricultural and tourism projects. The shareholders promised to provide the Bank with long-term loans worth \$36 million to enable it to perform its development role.

Sources at the Arab Bank in Amman said that an agreement was signed between the Arab Palestine Investment Bank and the Arab Bank according to which the latter provides training and expertise.



Shoman

12 hours because of rain with Sampras breaking the set. Sampras' serve was down the middle and Chagnon was unable to return it. Chagnon was forced to retire. Sampras won the match 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.



JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Children's death remains a mystery



The case of the two children who died mysteriously in their Shmeisani apartment last week has shocked the nation. Hani, 6, and Haneen, 9, Al Masri were found dead by their mother Wednesday morning. Police, who are still investigating the deaths, have not yet announced the findings of pathologists who performed autopsy on the two children to determine the cause of death. Their mother had left them for no more than 20 minutes that morning to drive their father to work. The family had breakfast together earlier and the children were preparing to go to school. When she returned she found both children unconscious. Both were pronounced dead upon arrival to a nearby hospital. Initial reports suggested that the children had died of food poisoning. But one week later the nature of the liquid substance that was found in the stomachs of the two victims remains unclear to investigators. Police pathologists were still carrying out extensive tests and have ruled out gas poisoning as rumored by some newspapers. The possibility of foul play has not been ruled out either. The liquid material that was found had badly damaged the linings of the stomach lead to internal bleeding and finally to suffocation.

Fighting corruption

The government appears to be fighting corruption thick and fast. According to the Minister of Information, Dr Marwan Al Moasher, another 34 cases of corruption and misuse have been presented to the public prosecutor. This brings the number of corruption cases so far to 101. Some of the trials of these cases have already started. But the Special Committee for Investigating Corruption and Bribery, which was set up by the General Intelligence Department, is still continuing its task, and no doubt many more cases of misuse will soon appear. But the minister said the cases for August include cigarette and clothes smuggling in the Zerga Free Trade Zone. What is interesting here, also, is that Dr Al Moasher said that large quantities of fake Supply Coupons were intercepted. These originated from outside the country. The ringleaders of these, intended to print more coupons that deal with sugar and rice.

Dead chickens for sale!

This time it is Zerga. No, it

is not violence or corruption, it is rotten chicken! Municipality officials have uncovered a gang that has been selling chicken that is unfit for public consumption, and they could have been doing it for months and even years. It was reported that officials came to know of the existence of the "chicken gang" by chance, when one of their members refused to destroy the infected chickens saying he would dump them in the city's garbage dump. This aroused the suspicion of the official, who followed the man. It was found that the dead chickens were taken to a far away area where they were cleaned and sold to the public. Zerga was a gold mine for the gang since there is about 200 chicken farms in the area that produce 45 percent of the Kingdom's need.

Labor, education and getting lost

The Minister of Labor, Dr Abdel Hafez Al Shakhaneh, is rather pleased with himself these days. He says Saudi Arabia has taken more than 2,000 Jordanian teachers this year. This is indeed good news, and



HRH Prince Hassan, the Regent, headed Tuesday's cabinet session at the prime ministry. The Regent said that it is premature to talk about a coordinated Arab action in relation to the peace process though Arabs agree on some basic issues like the settlements and refugees. He said it is imperative to reemphasize the right for Palestinians to return and be compensated.

should lead to lower unemployment in the domestic market, the good doctor points out. However, Al Sabel weekly pointed out that tens of teachers who were taken by the Saudis turned back shortly afterwards. They said that after they arrived to Jeddah, they found out that the village they have been assigned to was about 600 Kilometers away. What's more there was no public transport and teachers had to find their way by themselves. In the villages, they were in for more shocks. There was no water, electricity or telephones. It is said also that there was on shops and they had to travel about 200 Kilometers to buy their daily needs. However, the teachers returned to Jordan shortly afterwards. They are now demanding that they be found new jobs by the Ministry of Education.

Recriminations in Muslim Brotherhood

Could the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan be facing problems or is it a figment of one's imagination. Whatever the case, the Brotherhood has recently lost one of its ablest members. Dr Salah Al Khalidi was one of the

leading members of the Brotherhood in the late 1980s. Dr Khalidi is angry with the movement. He says that "it has lost the test" and became preoccupied with issues that are not related to the religious message.

He added that the Brotherhood "has sought to satisfy the government" in favor of ministerial posts. But as usual, the resignation of Al Khalidi is being seen by observers as one more strain between

the doves and the hawks in the government. This is especially the case, since the Muslim Brotherhood has officially expelled Ahmed Al Kassabeh from its ranks only a few days before the latter resignation. The two issues don't seem to be connected as Al Khalidi's resignation appears to be about party dogma rather than anything else.

But, the resignation have opened up a can of worms between the hawks and the doves. Although the former are



Al Omoush



lying dormant, the latter are taking the initiatives. For weeks now speculation has continued about the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood as taking part in the Kabarti government.

But such speculation raises a number of issues. Whether the government would go out for a reshuffle or indeed if it will stay in power. However, what is of our immediate concern is the behind-the-scenes negotiations that appear to be going on presently, although these are being strongly denied by the leadership of the movement. Recent statements by IAF deputies Dr Bassam Al Omoush and Dr Abdallah Al Akaleh indicate that they would be willing to join the government. Dr Al Omoush went on to suggest that even the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty is a *fait accompli*. However, his statements have brought swift denunciations from the Shura Council of the IAF.

The council stated categorically and once for all that they don't wish to join the Kabarti government and said that Al Omoush's statements caused the movement a lot of embarrassment, particularly since they are a vociferous opponents of the policies of the Kabarti government and particularly those that relate to the latest price hikes of bread and fodder.

Karak conference to be held shortly

The first conference on Karak will be held very shortly. The organizer, the Jordan Center for Studies and Information, is still in the preparation stage for the seminar. The head of the center, Mr Bilal Hassan Al Tal, said that the conference will be the kick-off point for the start of a number of conferences on Jordanian towns and cities, like Salt, Jerash and Irbid. A number of scientific papers have already been prepared on the economic and cultural life of Jerash.



The South African leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, will be coming to Jordan in November, it was confirmed by the South African Embassy in Amman. Press speculations that Mr Mandela would be coming to Jordan in the next day or two, were strenuously denied.

Abdel Baqi Gammo, an independent deputy, Dr Netham Barakat, the head of the Department of Political Science, contributed an article about Parliaments in the world. The issue follows up the Lower House activities and decisions.

Latest parliament magazine appears

The latest special issue of *Risale Majles Al Umma* has just been published. Its packed with information about the role of Parliament not just to Jordan but all over the world. The journal, which appears every two months, includes articles by Islamic Action Front Deputy, Dr Bassam Al Omoush and

Abdel Baqi Gammo, an independent deputy, Dr Netham Barakat, the head of the Department of Political Science, contributed an article about Parliaments in the world. The issue follows up the Lower House activities and decisions. There is also an interview with the deputy Abd Al Baqi Gammo under the title "Parliamentarians in Memory". Another item was about the Parliament from the point of view of press. This part tackles the press association law in particular and the proposed amendments.

Experts say water crisis

Continued from page 1

water pipelines for domestic use, but it collected the payment of only 98 mcm. This indicates that the water loss is about 52 percent as a result of the deteriorated water network, while the worst loss level worldwide is about 25 percent.

The Authority has recently launched a water network rehabilitation program which will cost JD 200 million.

Meanwhile, if the present tendency continues, experts believe Jordan will reach the "zero" point concerning water in less than 20 years. This

requires "an urgent step to limit the volume of water pumped for irrigation, before nature imposes its rules," said Dr Elias Salameh, a hydrology professor at the University of Jordan. Jordan "needs a radical water management program that takes decisive decisions. Because the current flexible style of management will lead the country to destruction."

The relationship between Jordan's diminishing water resources and rising needs of the population is deteriorating at fast rate. In 1991 the individual share from water was 293 cubic meter, but now it is expected to decrease to 176 cm by the year 2000. In 2025 when Jordan's population is expected to number 10 million, the individual share will be 88 cm. Among the available solutions is Al Disi aquifer project

which could solve the water problems of Amman, at a cost of \$50 million. The government presented the project to Amman Economic Summit last year but no steps have been taken so far.

"Many Jordanians have experience in the field of water desalination since most got their experience working in the Arab Gulf states," Mr Hashem said. The Gulf desalination stations produce 50 percent of the world's output of desalinated water. "The issue is merely a matter of finance, not technology," he added.

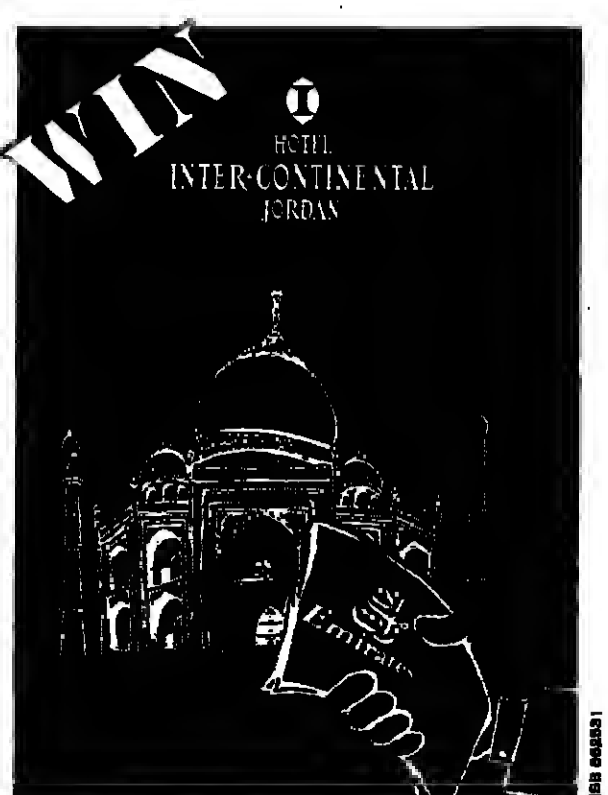
On the regional cooperation, Jordan and Syria are yet to carry out their agreement, reached over two decades ago, to build a dam on the Yarmouk River. But before both can secure international financing they need the approval of Israel which also has access to the Yarmouk.

While many experts believe Turkey could provide a long-term solution to the region's

water shortage, the projects that were proposed earlier in the eighties never really took off. Turkey's Ceyhan and Seyhan rivers discharge over 50 billion cubic meters of water in the Mediterranean Sea.

Still regional cooperation in the field of water is a complicated process and is linked to political stability and finance.

"The challenge would be to preserve what we have, not to degrade its quality. To manage it right, you do not over extract water from the ground, and that means better management," Dr Haddadin said. "It also means spending, you have to invest. When you look at us, Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, we three are the worst case. Israel has the advantage of having higher per capita incomes, that leaves Jordan and the Palestinians with over-population and less money to spend on water resources."



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Point of order

An essential guide to speed ramps

Speed ramps are not supposed to be made of cat's eyes or other phosphorescent objects that are actually designed for highways to act as markers, especially when driving at night.

What the municipality is doing is misusing these expensive objects which belong on our highways. The misuse comes out of gluing these markers to the asphalt in such a way that few days later most end up broken into little pieces because they are not designed to withstand enormous weights.

In short what is being done now constitutes a drain to the city budget—in other words taxpayers' money.

And yes we believe they do damage cars no matter how fast, or slow, one drives, especially when they turn into little bits and pieces, like shrapnel, that protrude in every direction.

Yes a solution must be found to speeding cars at intersections. A solution exists. It is called traffic law. Stop signs should be planted at every intersection—now they are not. Making a complete halt at stop signs must be made compulsory—police and VIP's included. This should be done first by publicizing the regulation in the local media, especially on TV by running one minute public service commercials every hour and for at least a month until everybody gets the message. Before we can deal with this problem, we must change the behavior of drivers. Ramps will not stop them if they are not conditioned to slow down before reaching an intersection.

Those who lived in the US for a while, and drove there, remember only too well that making a complete stop at an intersection became second nature to drivers even if the way was clear on all sides.

As to ramps, which obviously cannot be installed at every intersection in town, well, Greater Amman Municipality engineers in cooperation with the Traffic Dept., can go back to specialized text books and implement recommended designs. There are two such designs in Amman, the traditional hump-like asphalt ramp used in the driveways of the Royal Automobile Club, and one, more expensive but very practical, the rubber ramps recently installed at the entrance of the Marriott Hotel. Both are made to last for a long time—and both will make a reckless driver think twice as he or she approaches a dangerous intersection.

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Symposium highlights Jordan's role in radiosurgery

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff writer

THE MEDICAL sector in Jordan is today witnessing major developments. Because of the advanced medical equipments that are introduced daily, the performance of Jordanian hospitals is reaching top levels.

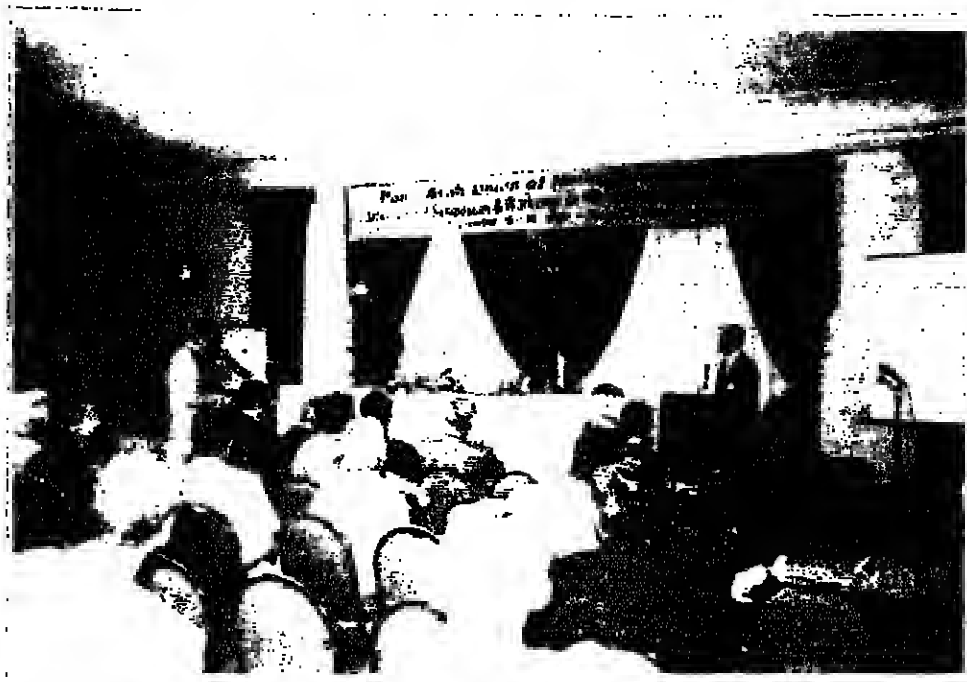
One of the major medical revolutions in Jordan has recently taken place in the Neurosurgery field. This was after the Ibn Al Haththam Hospital cooperated with the International Company for Medical Investment in Jordan to buy the Gamma Knife equipment. The knife, obtained from the Swedish company, Elekta, is considered one of the most up-to-date techniques in radiosurgery. It is used to remove brain tumors without the need for open surgery.

In order to highlight the significance of the machine in Jordan and the Arab world, the Pan-Arab Union for Neurological Sciences held recently the International Symposium and Workshop on Minimal Invasive Neurosurgery between 16-18 September at Philadelphia Hotel.

Chaired by the president of the union, Dr Muhammad Fadhil, the symposium, which was inaugurated by Princess Christina from Sweden and Prince Raed bin Zeid and Princess Magdi Bin Raed, hosted a large number of leading doctors and medical experts from Arab and foreign countries.

Being the first country in the Middle East to make use of the Gamma Knife, Jordan is now seen as a regional center for patients who need this kind of surgery. This new method has replaced the traditional open surgeries for certain brain tumors.

"Only in some cases, the Gamma Knife 'must' be an alternative to the open surgery especially if the removed tumor recurs," Prof. Gerhard



Professor Pendt lecturing at the opening of the symposium

Pendt from the university of Graz, Austria told *The Star*. Dr Pendt, who lectured on the principles of the Gamma Knife radiosurgery, added that he still cannot wholly dispense with the traditional method of surgery.

"We are thinking of a society that would help make this new treatment accessible to all those who need it," said Dr Isma Maragha from Jordan, the president of the Jordan Medical Association.

He added that the number of patients who have been treated by the machine in Jordan so far is 21 but the final results cannot be decided before three or six months.

The cost of the treatment by the knife in Jordan is about \$7000. This is almost half what it would cost to perform such surgery in Europe.

The three-day workshop included sessions on the image guided surgery and a lecture on

neurosurgery in the year 2001. One of the lectures focused on the use of robotics in surgery to localize tumors and treat them.

"The cost of these equipments is high; they will be used on a small scale," said Pendt.

The need for radiosurgery varies from one country to another. Jordan was able to obtain the machine because of its advanced medical facilities and the availability of financial resources by the private medical sector.

Dr Pendt stressed that some countries in Africa cannot get the machine because their hospitals lack the basic medical equipments. He said that this is different in the case of Jordan, because of the advanced state of medical technology. "Some African countries need to use the money they intended to use to buy the machine to improve water supplies and make them healthier."

Other barriers which deprive

some countries in the Middle East from obtaining this machine are financial. Egypt, for example, is one of the medically qualified countries but its hospitals failed to use this kind of treatment due to the shortage in financial resources.

Dr Ahmad Samir al Mulla, from Egypt said that Egyptian doctors are thinking of establishing a society to buy the Gamma Knife. He added "we have benefited from the Jordanian experience in this field."

"The percentage of Egyptian patients who need this kind of treatment is the highest in the world so we need more than one machine."

The Gamma Knife Center was officially opened at the Ibn Al Haththam Hospital and it is the only center of its kind in the Middle East. The holding of the conference in Amman reflects the confidence of international medical community in Jordan.

The 'thing' lights up Amman's skies but remains a puzzle

AMMAN (Star)—Ammanites were witnesses to an unexplained cosmic phenomenon late Thursday and early Friday which may have now called the "thing".

Eye witness confirmations began to pile up when a subscriber to a local public bulletin board, NETS, posted a message in which he claimed to have seen, along with a friend, a "big thing falling from the sky" and producing light at about 12:45 Friday morning. The incident, Mr Jawad Hakouz said, took place in the area of the airport highway close to Pine Palace Restaurant. "This thing kept falling down," he said.

Among those who responded

to Mr Hakouz plea for other eye witness accounts, were Minister of Information Marwan Musher who posted a message saying that he also saw the "thing" last Thursday while driving back from dinner. He promised NETS users to do some investigations about the nature of the phenomenon. But as messages kept coming it became apparent that many people saw the flare-like thing in various areas. One person said he saw the thing while driving in the Jordan Valley near Shouneh.

"I was driving with my family from the South Shouneh to Amman when we saw this thing that lit up the sky," said Mr Fadi Ghandour. "I thought it was a one of those flare guns

that they use when people are lost."

Another eye witness, Hazero Amin, said that at about 12:30 that night "the sky lit with a flash-like bright bluish white light in two very short stiches. I thought for a second it was lightning, so I went out to my terrace, and the clouds were way far in the horizon."

At least two accounts gave a different time for the strange light burst. One said that while she was driving back from Sweikhat at about 8:15 that same night "we saw the sky light up." While she did not see the "thing" falling from the sky, "the sky lit in a greyish colour that we actually thought that it may be thunder but since

there were no clouds that night, we are still wondering what it was!"

Another eye witness, Safa Hijazin, posted a message saying that he saw the lightening "while sitting on a terrace at my friend's house in Gardens St. and we were facing North...the sky lit all over the place and it really freaked us." His sighting was at about 9:31 Thursday evening.

While no official explanation has been made yet, experts tend to agree that the phenomenon may have been caused by meteorites entering the earth's atmosphere. But since this cannot be confirmed, the "thing" will remain a mystery for the time being.

US pushes hard

Continued from page 1
observed, that "In private, the Gulf states wish we'd send B-52s for a week and get it over with."

Each Gulf state also has more significant internal economic, social, political and security problems than it did in 1990. Saudi Arabia has been the site of two terrorist attacks in the last year. And Gulf economies are still recovering from tens of billions of dollars paid out for the 1991 war and subsequent operations. Backing Washington too publicly or forcefully could produce a domestic backlash or strengthen the voices of protest, analysts said.

The dilemma is made worse by the issue of sovereignty. Responding to an invasion of another country is one thing. Attacking after troops move within a country at the invitation of a local party—the circumstances in northern Iraq that sparked the current crisis—is another.

"With the exception of Egypt and Oman, Arab states were forged in the 20th century, most after World War II, so there's a deep anxiety about their own frontiers. Most states are worried about the precedents being set here," Murphy said.

For European members of the 1991 coalition, the biggest problem in the current faceoff is that US actions have been conducted outside the purview of the United Nations, according to US officials. Some of the European nations are concerned about precedent. Others suffer from power envy.

Each also has an agenda that reflects shifting priorities.

France, which provided 16,000 troops and 40 warplanes in the 1991 war, does not want to abandon the coalition. But, for economic reasons, Paris also does not want to anger Iraq.

Over the last two years, the two main French oil companies, Total and Elf Aquitaine, have negotiated production-sharing agreements with Iraq's National Oil Co. for new oil fields discovered but not yet developed in southern Iraq. Placke said. The deals have not been signed but they are ready, whenever sanctions are eased.

France's reaction to the current crisis mirrors its double interests. French warplanes continue to help patrol the previously established "no-fly" zones in Iraq but not in the southern area expanded unilaterally by Washington.

Russia was another critical coalition member. During the Soviet Union's demise in 1991-92, joining the coalition provided legitimacy and leverage to a fast-fading superpower. Today, Russia is a horn-grown country struggling to reestablish its own influence and clients. It, too, has negotiated an oil development deal with Iraq.

Because of its own internal war with the Chechens, Russia also is worried about the principle of international intervention when a government acts against its own people, as Moscow did with the separatist region of Chechnya. "With 90,000 dead in Chechnya, US action (in Iraq) sets a terrible precedent" as far as the Russians are concerned, Kemp said.

And for the Turks, who Moody said they would not allow US use of a key military base even if Washington asked, reluctance relates to its own

Kurdish problem, a divided government and funding. Ankara will lose millions from an inactive pipeline now that the oil-for-food deal is on indefinite hold.

Add to the mix US bombing—specifically failing to ask Kuwait if Washington could deploy troops and generally to consult with allies—and

the bigger surprise is that anything remains of the original coalition, analysts said.

But reports of the coalition's death are "premature," Kemp said. Added Kipper, "If oil were threatened, the coalition would snap back faster than you could say Saddam Hussein."

Muslim president takes lead

Continued from page 1

on power. The Bosnian Serb opposition in Banja Luka had attracted interest and support from U.S. and European envoys attempting to build a counterweight to Kanazir, Krajisnik and their fellow hard-liners. Icanic had languished in early returns but suddenly Tuesday night his count tripled.

History has taught longtime

observers of the Balkans that the chances for real cooperation are slim. The constitution, for example, requires decisions by the presidency to be made by consensus, opening the door to obstruction by any party and governmental gridlock—a nightmare scenario reminiscent of the months before the war began, when a similar system of ethnic-quota joint institutions plunged the country into chaos.

Collective resignations

Continued from page 1

of the House. Supporters of this view say that neither people nor the government are in a mood to prepare for new elections.

They also said that Jordanians are not satisfied with the performance of the present Lower House or even prepared to elect a new House.

But dissolution of the Lower House is still a distinct possibility and will lead to a new elections. Early elections, analysts argue, will help the three constitutional authorities from embarrassment in taking a stance against Mr Kabrit's government.

"His Majesty King Hussein, being the supreme head in Jordan, is the only one authorized to take a decision on early elections," Lower House speaker, Mr Said Hayel Al Sroor told *The Star*. "But there is no constitutional reason for running early elections, adding that the life of the Lower House is four years."

The present House, Al Sroor added, "should resume its constitutional period, particularly because it is on the threshold of holding its fourth and last ordinary session."

On the other hand, the IAF deputies made up their decision concerning their participation in the government. The Islamic movement decided not to join the government of Abdel Karim Kabrit, stressing that they would participate in this government regardless of pressures that may be imposed on them.



ARAB BANK

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1996 and 1995

Assets	1996	1995
	JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)
Cash and due from banks	4,101,413	3,666,962
Government and trading securities	849,318	749,899
Loans and advances, net	3,893,416	3,375,875
Long-term investments	506,347	400,040
Fixed assets, net	54,246	50,641
Other assets	210,729	138,035
Total Assets	9,615,469	8,381,452
Customers' liability on guarantees, letters of credit and acceptances	3,862,766	3,199,095
Total	13,478,235	11,580,547

Liabilities and Shareholders'	1996	1995
	JOD ('000)	JOD ('000)
Equity		
Customer deposits	6,510,635	5,715,201
Bank deposits	2,161,768	1,713,956
Other liabilities	391,066	465,295
Total liabilities	9,063,469	7,894,452
Capital	44,000	44,000
Statutory reserve	44,000	44,000
Voluntary reserve	116,000	94,000
General reserve	348,000	305,000
Total Shareholders' Equity	552,000	487,000
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	9,615,469	8,381,452
Guarantees, letters of credit and acceptances	3,862,766	3,199,095
Total	13,478,235	11,580,547

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1995 was included in "Other Liabilities"

JOD 1 = USD 1.41 on 30/06/1996
JOD 1 = USD 1.44 on 30/06/1995

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ARAB BANK GROUP

Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1996 and 1995

Assets	1996	1995	Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	1996	1995
	US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)		US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)
Cash and due from banks	5,640,200	5,816,183	Customer deposits	9,716,922	8,788,967
Government and trading securities	1,326,583	1,299,084	Bank deposits	3,014,576	3,015,688
Loans and advances, net	6,309,604	5,620,080	Other liabilities	868,951	961,939
Long-term investments	1,118,545	881,464	Total Liabilities	13,600,449	12,766,594
Fixed assets, net	96,129	92,988	Capital	84,897	139,246
Other assets	350,479	246,560	Statutory reserve	78,181	112,471
Total Assets	14,841,540	13,956,359	Voluntary reserve	179,230	175,984
Customers' liability on guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	8,818,799	7,092,666	General reserve	641,782	732,537
			Reserves with associated companies	273,823	251,746
			Retained earnings	2,031	2,257
			Total	1,259,944	1,414,241
			Translation adjustments	(18,853)	(224,476)
			Total Shareholders' Equity	1,241,091	1,189,765
			Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	14,841,540	13,956,359
			Guarantees, letters of credit and other contingencies	8,818,799	7,092,666
Total	23,660,339	21,049,025	Total	23,660,339	21,049,025

Net profit for the period ended 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1995 was included in "Other liabilities"

Main branches in the Arab countries

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Shmeisani, Amman	Jordan (78)	950546	607231	670564
King Faisal St. Amman		68	638161	637082
Ramallah	West Bank (9)	1487	9954822	9954824
Gaza	Gaza Strip (2)	91	866288	820704
Manama O.B.U.	Bahrain (1)	813	212255	224475
Manama	Bahrain (3)	395	229988	210443
Cairo	Egypt (5)	2006	5746218	5746165
Beirut	Lebanon (11)	11-1015	643411	868130
Doha	Qatar (2)	172	437979	410774
Abu Dhabi	U.A.E. (8)	875	334111	336433
Dubai		11364	228845	285974
Sana'a	Yemen (4)	475	276584	276583

Main branches in Europe, Asia and U.S.A.

Branch	Country (No. of branches)	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Nicosia	Cyprus (5)	5650	457111	367741
Paris	France (2)	319	45616000	42890978
Athens	Greece (1)	30357	3255401	3255519
Rome	Italy (1)	745	69940479	6795601
Madrid	Spain (3)		3084290	3086482
London	U.K. (3)	138	3158500	6007620
Singapore	Singapore (1)		5330055	5322150
Seoul	S. Korea (1)	1331	3179000	7570124
New York	U.S.A. (2)	5377	7159700	5934632

Representative offices	Beijing (Peking)	China	Tel. 65931871	Fax 65003275
	Shanghai	China	Tel. 65072775	Fax 65072776
	Santiago	Chile	Tel. 2339726	Fax 2519351

Sister, Subsidiary & Associated Companies

Arab Bank	Percentage of Ownership
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. - Zurich, Geneva	100%
Arab Bank Australia Ltd. - Sydney	100%
Arab Bank (Austria) AG - Vienna	100%
Arab Bank AG - Frankfurt / Germany	100%
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A. - Geneva	100%
Arab Tunisian Bank - Tunis	64%
Arab Bank Maroc - Morocco	50%
Oman Arab Bank - Oman	49%
Arab National Bank - Saudi Arabia	40%

Sister, Subsidiary and associated companies

	Country	P.O.Box	Telephone	Facsimile
Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd.	Zurich	5281	2657111	2657330
	Geneva	1096	7151211	7322460
Arab Bank Australia Ltd.	Sydney	N-645	3778900	2215428
Arab Bank (Austria) AG	Vienna	100	5134240	51342409
Arab Bank AG	Frankfurt	100127	242590	235471
Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A.	Geneva	1506	7326003	7387229
Arab Tunisian Bank	Tunis	520	351155	349278
Oman Arab Bank S.A.O.	Ruwi	2010	706265	797736
Arab Bank Maroc	Casablanca	13810	223152	200233
Arab National Bank	Riyadh	56921	4029000	4027747
Arabia Insurance Co.	Beirut	11-2172	363610	365139

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Business scene

■ The assets of the Central Bank of Jordan reached well over \$3.454 billion in August. This is up by JD 27 million since July. The gold assets were JD 139.686 million during August.

■ The Jordanian Tourism and Mineral Water Co. is in debt of more than JD 14.4 million, due to accumulating losses at JD 9.7 million. The deficit in its shareholders' rights reached JD 4.7 million. According to the law, the courts have the right to liquidate any concern that has losses of more than 75% of the paid-up capital.

■ A series of touristic investment projects in the eastern coast of the Dead Sea are being discussed between the Ministries of Finance and Water and Irrigation, the general secretary of the Jordan Valley Authority, Dr. Duraid Mahasneh said.

The costs of these projects are estimated at JD 16 million. These are to be spent over two years to supply the area with water and electricity.

■ A new plant for synthetic potash is to be constructed, the director of the Arab Potash Co., Mr. Sulaiman Al Hawari said. The cost of the plant is estimated at \$9 million and its productive capacity is 100,000 tons per year. A group of German companies have won the tender for the new plant. The plant will start production by the end of next year, Mr. Al Hawari maintained. Synthetic potash is expected to contribute to the potash carbon industry, which is used in making computer systems and TV screens, Al Hawari said.

■ The European Union is to grant Jordan ECUs, 100 million (about \$125 million). The grant will support Jordan's economic reform program. The sum will be paid to Jordan over two phases, the first will be paid next month at 60 million ECUs (\$78 million), and the second will be paid before the end of this year at 40 million ECUs.

This donation is targeted at reinforcing Jordan's financial and monetary stability, support its reserve of foreign currency and provide assistance for Jordan to face the difficulties of this transitional period.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 18 September

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1017	1.1072
DM	0.4716	0.4740
SPR	0.5788	0.5817
FRF	0.1383	0.1390
YEN (100)	0.6469	0.6501
DEL	0.4208	0.4229
BAH	0.0468	0.0470

Telephone Facsimile

2657111	2657350
7151211	7322400
3778900	2213428
5134240	5134240
242590	235471
7326003	7387220
351155	349278
706265	797736
223152	200233
4029000	4027747
363610	363139

Telephone Facsimile

New positive mood on AFM reflects greater confidence in market

AMMAN—(Star)—For the third consecutive week, the "leading" shares on the Amman Financial Market were those of the Arab Bank. Its share value registered the highest level since a year ago, closing at JD 251.

Transactions on the Arab Bank shares represented 40 percent of dealings at the organized and parallel markets until the end of this week.

And that's not all. For the first time, since April, the official stock indicator hit the new psychological barrier of 150 points closing at 152.11 points. This is a rise of 13 points in just 20 days. Share turnover at the organized market rose by JD 145 million to reach JD 3.19 billion, the highest since March.

Tradings of the Arab Bank, Housing Bank, Arab Potash Co., Jordan Cement Factories and Jordan Phosphates represent 63.5 percent of the total value of the organized market. Share trading of the Arab Bank hit the JD 1.1 billion.

Dealers think that the AFM will continue to flourish as it is encouraged by local and foreign portfolios that activated the market. Attractive share prices for investors and dealers are also having an effect.

But the government must take some of the credit. The steps and measures adopted last month to encourage investments and attract foreign investors to enter the market have paid off.

The AFM is seen by economic analysts as a "mirror image" that reflects economic performance in Jordan.

Although witnessing three years of decline since 1993, the market is starting to revive despite the latest developments in the region.

The three years of decline, as argued, were the result of political developments, starting from Oslo peace accords, the peace agreements with Israel, and the subsidiary deals that followed. These were not able to make specific changes in the economic status of people in the region, particularly in Jordan. The Israeli mentality opposes establishing real regional projects in the area and doesn't allow the movement of Palestinian products to Jordan and vice-versa. Also, there is the Iraqi market which suffers from UN sanctions backed by the US.

However, the market remains unaffected despite the latest raids made by American missiles on Iraq earlier this month. This fact led economic analysts to suggest that it is the local situation that is dominant in the process of dealings in the AFM.

Analysts argue that despite fluctuations, now and then, the market on the whole is witnessing noticeable improvement. This emphasizes the belief that the tendency is of a local type rather than of an external character.

A positive climate can be created by adopting local measures. Hence, the value of the dinar should be supported, as foreign currency deposits represent 40 percent of total deposits in the banking system. The remittances of Jordanian expatriates have gone up sharply over the first half of this year to reach \$774 million against \$530 million in the same period last year. This sharp rise reflects the expatriates' confidence in the value of the dinar.

The policy of the Central Bank aims at boosting the position of the dinar by increasing interest rates. Although this policy may have effect on the market, analysts argue, it will help the dinar maintain its value.

The director of the Amman Investment and Securities Co., As'ad Al Deesi said that the improvement on the AFM and the rise in its share prices is mainly attributed to the increase in investors' confidence.

AMMAN (Star)—On its 16 September, The United Nations presented to the General Assembly its report on efficiency and financial management. The Secretary-General identified — through enhanced efficiency, reduced staffing and increased productivity — the \$54 million savings required to allow the Organization to live within its General Assembly mandated \$2.608 billion budget cap, according to the report. It has achieved a zero budget growth and reduced staff by nearly 10 percent, to the lowest level since the 1980s. Efficiency measures are contributing to easing the

impact of the budget situation by identifying specific savings and by mitigating the effect of budget cuts on the delivery of the United Nations programmes.

The next step, efforts will be made to complete the 400 efficiency projects, conduct cross-cutting reviews of management systems and administrative processes, pilot new management systems, and submit another report by December.

The UN is an organization searching for peace, struggling for development and defence of human rights.

UN, head on heels to cut costs

AMMAN (Star)—Nearly two years have passed since Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel. Yet, the so-called fruits of peace that everybody thought we were going to get have not been forthcoming. Indeed the economic situation this year seems to be worse than it was in 1995.

However, experts have different views on this. Fadi Al Fanek, an economic analyst elaborates, "Jordan did not enter the peace agreement for economic consideration," he told *The Star*. "This is a political and security agreement which is needed by Jordan."

He did acknowledge, however, that people had high expectations. "The agreement did not give the expected fruits," mainly because of the "Israeli mentality." He says that it is the Israelis who are

delaying the trade exchange and are making transportation very difficult. Dr. Fanek adds that Israel is preventing Jordanian products from entering Palestinian markets.

But the economic columnist is realistic. "We should admit that we had entered the peace treaty without receiving any promises."

So we should have nothing to complain about because nobody promised us anything. He adds that Jordan did not make its entry into the peace process conditional on receiving economic benefits.

Still, Fanek argues that the peace treaty is in Jordan's best interest.

He is not gloomy at all about the economy. While he is cautious about the recent economic package adopted by the Kabari government and



Fanek

says it's too early to talk about its results since it will take at least 12 months to implement, he is optimistic about the economy.

This prosperity relates to the new investment climate. "I expect the Amman Financial Market to improve as it has started to, two weeks ago," he adds that foreign investments have started coming, suggesting that local investors should not sell their shares at present because of their cheap prices.

Adopting a monetarist attitude, he continues that "the economy is very active but we need to curb consumption even more. Otherwise, the balance of payments will deteriorate."

He says the issue of high interest rates shouldn't be seen in terms of whether they are good or bad. "May be they are seen as bad by businessmen and investors, but we cannot afford lower interest rates, because of the results that may follow—these include a weak dinar, and a worsening balance of payment."

Fanek expressed a pessimistic view about the forthcoming Cairo economic summit that is due to be held in November. "I think it should be postponed," because there is no progress in the peace process. However, he is dreary about the last economic summit that was held in Amman. He said it "was a political occasion, the purpose of which was to include Israel in the Arab economies. It is part of the peace process which is now blocked by the Israelis."

"In the Arab area, politics comes before economics. It has priority and it is the dominating factor, economics follow. So without progress in the peace process, there is no sense in holding economic conferences, to integrate Israel in the Middle East before having real progress in peace with the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese and others."

However, he believes that the peace process will remain stagnant until after the American elections. "As for the economy of Jordan, I think it will improve because most of the distortions were removed, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program is working, the deficit in the budget is decreasing. Also the deficit in the balance of payments is becoming less and less every year. So we shall become more self-sufficient over time," he adds.

"Hopefully, by the year 2000 Jordan will be financially independent, and we won't need foreign aid or another adjustment program by IMF. So the sacrifices made by the Jordanian people would get their fruits very shortly," he points out.

Jordan will be financially independent by year 2000, says economic analyst

AMMAN (Star)—The RECENT United Nations decision to postpone implementation of the UN Iraqi oil-for-food deal coupled with the real possibility of US military action against Iraq highlights just how vulnerable Jordan (and more importantly, its economy) is to regional events.

Iraq constitutes a pivotal market for Jordanian goods. In 1994, Jordan exported some \$190 million worth of goods to Iraq, representing approximately 13 percent of total exports. Iraq, in fact, led the way in this regard, ahead of India at 11 percent and Saudi Arabia at 9 percent.

Unfortunately for Jordanian business, a repeat of the 1994 performance is highly unlikely anytime in the near future. A decision by the UN to abandon an Iraqi oil-for-food plan, agreed too late last year. All but dampened Jordanian hopes for a return to prosperous times. The plan granted Iraq permission to sell \$2 billion worth of oil for humanitarian supplies. More importantly for Jordan, however, was the hope that such a deal would revive trade between itself and Iraq as well as a resumption of passing goods destined to Iraq through Jordanian ports and land.

Equally damaging to Jordanian prospects is the distinct possibility of US military action against Iraq. Such actions, have proven to be difficult for Jordan not only due to its potentially precarious stand against the West, which can effect economic ties with the US, but also because it makes the possible return of Iraq with the regional economic community that much more unlikely.

Jordan's geographic and political position helps to make its already struggling economy even more vulnerable. As if the past decades of war with Israel wasn't enough, Jordan must face the new challenges which threatens its most important ally.

Business Chronicle

By Mohammad Adawiya

Jordan losses in delay of oil-for-food deal

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Palestinian economy losses at \$1 billion because of blockade

THE PALESTINIAN National Authority (PNA) Minister of Finance, Mohammad Zuhdi Al Nashashibi criticized the donor countries for delaying their commitments to provide financial aid estimated at \$865 million for infrastructure projects in the Palestinian territories.

Only 10 percent of this sum was given to PNA until last August, he added, hoping that the donor countries adhere to their commitments. The deficit in the PNA budget reached until last March \$125 million due to the blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "If the donor countries help us as they had promised, the rate of the deficit may decline," Al Nashashibi said.

He also spoke about the financial and economic cooperation between the PNA and Jordan saying that the two sides had agreed to coordinate their policies, every side undertaking not to take any decision that may affect the other, particularly as far as the value of the dinar is concerned. "We do our best to maintain

the strength of the dinar and it is the major currency in saving and dealing." The volume of the Jordanian currency in Palestine is about \$600 million and represents 60 percent of total traded currencies," Al Nashashibi said.

The Rafah airport in Gaza is towards completion and it will be used in transportation to Arab neighboring countries and shipping. Palestinian exports to international markets. The PNA is giving the private sector opportunities to improve agricultural areas and provide houses for citizens," Al Nashashibi said.

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Capital Intelligence announces alliance with EUROSTAR

CAPITAL INTELLIGENCE, the leading rating agency in the emerging markets of the Middle East and Asia. In conjunction with EUROSTAR, a division of Sleigh Corporation, a provider of financial information on banks, announced the release of a joint product to be made available via modern in Sleigh Corporation's Windows platform.

"This platform will give our customers, particularly in the United States, the ability to reach our information on-line in an easily usable way," said Lionel Marsland-Shaw, general manager of Capital Intelligence. "Our products have been fully adapted to give users simple access to both qualitative and quantitative data in the manner of their own choosing and this method of delivery complements our existing hardcopy and CD-ROM platforms."

Capital Intelligence, founded in 1982, is the leading credit rating agency covering the Middle East and Asia, with reports on over 315 banks in these regions. It operates principally from its head office in Cyprus and maintains an office in Hong Kong.

EUROSTAR based in New Jersey, USA, is a leader in the field of providing detailed financial information and analysis on banks on a "dial-up" platform. Covering over 9,000 banks from its own database, EUROSTAR can also supply its information via CD-ROM, diskette or hardcopy.

MARKET WATCH 14-17 September

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
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"I volunteered to perform your heart surgery, President Yeltsin!"

Our Say....

Hit Saddam and get elected

IN A mid-seventies Arabic comedy show, a bewildered journalist always used to say that "in order to understand what goes in Italy, one must first understand what goes in Brazil."

Today, with Washington insisting on fabricating a second Gulf crisis by dispatching two aircraft carriers and one nuclear powered submarine to the Gulf water-in addition to deploying thousands of US soldiers in Kuwait, one recalls with nostalgia the wise words of that frustrated Arab journalist.

Such a formidable armada coupled with the massing of ground and air military power and personnel is capable of wiping out not only Iraq, but the Gulf region as a whole. And yet we know that the United States, with over 30 countries behind it, backed down from marching into Baghdad in January 1991 to topple President Saddam Hussein or to finish off his army. Why should it do that now?

With the Gulf Arabs, Kuwait included, showing lukewarm enthusiasm for recent American actions against Iraq, and with Washington turning its back to the UN Security Council and most of its allies with regard to its military intentions in Iraq, one wonders if we first have to know what is going on in Washington before attempting to understand the recent Gulf developments.

For even America's Gulf allies are sceptical about America's warnings that President Saddam is posing a new threat to their stability and security. So sceptical that US Defence Secretary William Perry failed last week to build up support for a possible military strike against Baghdad. He was rebuffed by Saudi Arabia and Turkey and even Kuwait, which has the most to fear from Saddam, embarrassed its American allies by bargaining with Perry on the exact number of ground troops the US will be allowed to deploy on its territory.

If Saddam's potential victims don't see eye to eye with Washington, then one has to make the assumption that President Clinton's motives from the latest provocations differ completely from those of his Gulf allies. In short, bashing Iraq is part of the get-elected objective of Mr Clinton.

One thing is clear. America's Iraq policy has collapsed and if the Clinton administration is keeping up a brave face about it, then it will not be for too long. The November presidential elections are making everybody nervous in Washington. Sex scandals and corruption allegations related to the Whitewater affair are not going to help Mr Clinton get reelected. Changing platforms—suddenly Mr Clinton's economic agenda looks more and more Republican than Democrat—appears to have limited senator Robert Dole room for maneuverability. But that is not enough to grab voters' attention.

What better way to maintain one's lead in the polls than to refocus attention to public enemy number one: i.e. Saddam Hussein.

Americans have a limited, almost embarrassing, understanding for foreign affairs. But they do know that Saddam Hussein is the bad guy and so long as the lives of American troops are not at threat, the scenes of aircraft carriers and F-16's assembling in the Gulf, where US national interests are always at stake, should make every American proud. Today hitting Saddam Hussein becomes a patriotic chore and that should get media's attention away from Whitewater files and \$200 a night call girls. ■

Letters to the Editor

Appealing to the media

To the Editor,
Several months ago I wrote a letter to Minister of Information Marwan Muasher on NETS making that the Govt. take full responsibility for the reckless driving in Jordan, and for the police's seemingly total ignorance of any traffic laws. I suggested a full campaign, media and television, with public service announcements and realistic ads detailing crashes, interviewing survivors, and victims' families, not to mention re-training the police, (if they were ever trained in the first place). He replied that my suggestions were noted and that he'd pass them on.

My point is could *The Star* not put the pressure on the government? Why can't your

paper push for the basic laws to be enforced, just by devoting a section/page editorial to the subject. Have interviews, follow up on the most gruesome crashes, we always get to hear about the horrific truck encounters on the news, but no one ever tells you what happened to the victims' families or survivors, other than a lame interview from a hospital bed. Perhaps you could organize a campaign sponsored by the paper.



I wondered if the paper took on the campaign it might make the govt. actually do something about the problem?

Rajha Ghazi, Amman.

The Star
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Middle East miracles

Past, present and presidents

By Carrie Nelle Moye

THE MIDDLE East is the birthplace of civilization, science, literature and prophecy—of the three great monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It was there that the miracles of Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed occurred.

It was there that the first alphabet was conceived, of the first plough, of the first sail that hoisted over the waters of the ancient world. Much of the heritage, spiritual dynamism and evolving cultures derived from miracles, real or perceived. It was a miracle through Moses that made the exodus of the Jews from Egypt possible; it was a miracle that the Jews survived the years of wandering and centuries of persecution. And it was a modern miracle that Israel became a reality. This was made possible by US presidents, Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman.

Roosevelt laid the groundwork. Truman brought the miracle to fruition. Eisenhower was a pragmatic, patriot who devoted his life to the service of his ideals: America, democracy, decency. He did not attempt miracles in the Middle East or elsewhere, yet his sense of justice and decency compelled him to achieve a miracle in the Middle East. He forced three precious US friends (Britain, France, and Israel) to retreat from Egyptian land after they failed to topple president Nasser in the 1956 Suez War.

However, he did not like Nasser. His administration denied Egypt the earlier promised loan to construct the Aswan High Dam, triggering the nationalization of the Suez Canal and leading to the unholy alliance of the three aggressors to attack Egypt. The miracle achieved by Eisenhower was not so much as forcing the three aggressors out but speeding the demise of the British and French Empires.

Kennedy, intellectually upset by the plight of the Middle East, opened a subtle dialogue with the Arabs. He was engaged in a highly intellectual correspondence with Nasser when he was assassinated. To the adherents of the "conspiracy theory," this dialogue may have played a role in his demise by Oswald's bullet.

Johnson, too engrossed by Vietnam, had little time for the Middle East, aside from the obligatory, almost ritualistic pronouncements of support for Israel. Nevertheless his actively supported and cemented Israel's victory in the Six Day War. It was a miracle in reverse because Johnson created and so solidified the impasse in the region that continues today.

Nixon, on the other hand, achieved his miracle when he saved Israel from defeat in the 1973 October War, when he declared a nuclear alert and established an air bridge from US to Israel to rush in much needed weapons. Yet the miracle was not potent to abolish the spell of Watergate, leading to his eventual disgrace.

Carter, deeply religious and righteous, accomplished the greatest miracle, the Camp David Accords, peace between Egypt and Israel. That moment of glory should have been enough to ensure his reelection but another miracle—if elections can be negative—achieved far away in distant Iran blundered the halo of Camp David. The Iranian miracle was brought about when Ayatollah Khomeini, who mobilized Iran from his exile in France, demoralized the Iranian army and government apparatus and forced the Shah out, as Khomeini declared an Islamic Republic.

Carter's refusal to lend any support to the Shah and his refusal to let the Shah seek cancer treatment in US hospitals, only encouraged Khomeini to take more aggressive actions against America. The pro-

longed detention of US hostages at the US Embassy in Teheran, the un-avenged continued humiliations of America by Khomeini's thugs all led Carter to his greatest blunder, the failed rescue attempt of the hostages that ended with a charred helicopter carcass and mutilated bodies in the merciless Iranian desert.

Thus, in the Middle East, Carter experienced both his most glorious and his most devastating moments. Carter, however, fueled both by his righteousness and idealism, continues to push his crusade for peace, justice, and human rights, including and especially in the Middle East.

Reagan, on whose inauguration day Khomeini released the American hostages, had little time for or knowledge of the Middle East. He was the classical, emotional supporter of Israel. All his foreign policy was directed at the Evil Empire, the Soviet Union and its communist allies. His miracle, exceptionally, was not in the Middle East but creating the conditions that led to the collapse and disappearance of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, although it was under George Bush that the miracle was realized.

Bush, in turn, was desirous to create miracles although he did not seem to have the requisite ambition. Saddam Hussein made it possible. His invasion of Kuwait, set the scene for the unsolicited miracle for Bush. The president assembled an unprecedented coalition to evict Saddam from Kuwait, ensure American and Western interests in Gulf oil wealth and establish a military presence in the Gulf—at the expense of Gulf Arabs who paid for the war.

The significance of this miracle was not the defeat of Saddam. No, it was that fact that the US remained in the area, controlling its waters and skies—and of course its oil.

The US tried for 30 years to establish bases in the Gulf, but was allowed only a low-keyed presence. The decision by Bush to stop Desert Storm far south of Baghdad and let Saddam rule, was in US interest. Saddam remains a threat to his neighbors; consequently they plead for a continued American presence. They pay for this protection, immense weapons purchases, and lucrative contracts, even at the cost of alienating segments of their population.

As a sequel to Desert Storm, Bush and James Baker achieved a "wonder," the Madrid Peace Conference. It led to the Oslo agreements between Israel and the Palestinians, peace between Israel and Jordan. Madrid also led to the normalization of Israel's relations with Morocco, Tun-

sia, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman and encouraged many African countries to establish normal diplomatic relationships with Israel. The Middle East brought Bush his greatest moments: he became the most popular president in US; he restored American confidence after the Vietnam debacle.

Yet Bush was not re-elected, just as Carter had not been. But Carter was undone by Khomeini, so what undid Bush? Was it his determination at Madrid to force a peace settlement on the then ruling Yitzhak Shamir of Israel? Carter and Bush pressed hard for Middle East peace and lost their bids. Was it because certain lobbies in the US do not want such peace zealots?

And now we have Clinton. Is he looking for a miracle? His Bible Belt background may have nurtured in him such aspirations. He tried his hand in Somalia and Bosnia and had two fiascos simultaneously. He sent troops to Haiti to restore a president who continues to be protected by US. He used and abused the UN for US interests, but continues to refuse to pay the UN.

Clinton attempted to continue the Middle East peace talks where Bush left them. He shone brightly as Arafat and Rabin shook hands at the White House and as Rabin and King Hussein embraced in Jericho. His overwhelming support to the ruling Israeli Labor Party may have been a factor in Rabin's death and probably in the defeat of Peres. A jinx? Clinton organized and attended the terrorism summit in Sharm El-Sheikh but terrorism continued unabated, including being much closer to home: the US compound in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia and the TWA aircraft off Long Island. Also a jinx?

Is Clinton seeking his miracle in a second term? The Middle East talks are stalled. Palestinians and Israelis, despite the forced, almost theatrical handshake between Netanyahu and Arafat, are as far apart as possible. Nothing is happening on the Syrian and Lebanese peace talks with Israel. Clinton's amazingly docile posture and statements during his joint press conference in the White House with Netanyahu following the latter's election did not suggest leadership or statesmanship. Guest Netanyahu dominated the scene in the very den of the lion-host. Was it electioneering by Clinton who hopes to unleash his potential and zeal in a second term, free of electoral pressures? Will he be given a chance to continue working for a Middle East peace under such circumstances? Certainly Bush was not, despite one mega-miracle and one "wonder."



The Iraq Lesson

Interest is paramount

EDITOR'S NOTE: The editor thought that this would make an interesting read. It is a parody on what the teacher says as "geo-politics" and the role of the United States, which we received through the Internet.

"Class, pay attention. Since it's the first day back at school, it's time for a refresher lesson. Today's topic: geopolitics, as in who gets to bomb whom. The teacher says,

"The Russians are our friends, so they get to bomb civilians in Chechnya. That's their own country, so it's really their business. The Indonesians are our friends, so they get to bomb East Timor. Same story there. The Israelis are our really good friends, so they get to bomb civilians in southern Lebanon. Technically outside their borders, but as you know, there are exceptions to every rule, and it's our rule in the first place," she adds.

"The Turks are our friends, so they go without saying that they get to bomb Kurdish villages in eastern Turkey. The Turks have been such good pals of ours (well, until recently) that just last year we even let them bomb Kurdish villages

inside the so-called safe haven in northern Iraq. But Iraq is not our friend, so after Saddam Hussein sent tanks into the Iraqi city of Erbil, we bombed his country. Remember, we're snubbing the UN this election year, so it doesn't matter that we didn't have an explicit Security Council go-ahead, or even the support of a multilateral coalition. As President Clinton told Saddam

friends with Iran, especially since we had put the Shah in power. Iraq was aiding the Ayatollah Khomeini, so Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made a deal with the Shah to help the Kurds in northern Iraq fight for their freedom," the teacher emphasizes.

"Of course, the day the Shah and Saddam Hussein patched things up, we stopped helping the Kurds and looked

dropped poison gas on some Kurdish villages in 1988. It was just when he misunderstood what Ambassador April Glaspie was trying to tell him—"We never expected they would take all of Kuwait," she admitted later—that he became the next Hitler."

"But Teacher, we're still confused. If Saddam Hussein is so horrible, why did we leave him in power? Iraq doesn't seem much worse than some of those countries you said were our friends. When he was a senator, Bob Dole voted against sanctioning Iraq for gassing the Kurds because he wanted to protect wheat exports. And even President Clinton, when he was first elected, suggested he

might normalize relations if Saddam Hussein were to 'change his behavior.' Right now all we seem to be doing is manipulating the Kurds while punishing the Iraqi people and giving them an excuse to support Saddam. How could that possibly be in our interest?"

"Well, kids, maybe we need more than just a lesson—an entire refresher course in politics."

"After Iraq invaded Iran and the war bogged down, we secretly helped both sides. We didn't even care when Saddam

crushed them. It's all in the Pike Commission report, which really should be on your reading list. Then, after the Iranian revolution in 1979, Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, signaled the Iraqis that he wouldn't mind a move against Iran."

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"After Iraq invaded Iran and the war bogged down, we secretly helped both sides. We didn't even care when Saddam

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

Iraq once again

THE END of the millennium has fused the sublime and the ridiculous—a massive technological advances with rudderless policies, and an ancient civilization with erratic political behavior.

If we continue the permutations in a mathematical sequence, what will materialize is similarities between US policies in the Middle East and those which president Saddam tried to achieve for Iraq.

In the Middle East and in no uncertain terms, the name of the game is domination and strategic interest. The difference between the US and Iraq is methodological. The former relies on a logic that stems from technological superiority, while the latter relies on the methods of ancient civilizations to achieve the same objectives.

Unfortunately, we in the Arab world remain hostages to our own strength and paupers of our own wealth. As if it is not enough to be perceived as pools for energy production, we are seen as surplus values. Otherwise, we would have found some logical explanation to the ease in which Eritrians can tear apart Arab Yemen. Iran adds trophies from the Emirates, Israel and Turkey carving and chopping what they like, and when they want.

To have massive resources of oil and a mentality incompatible with the formulation of a nation, has invited the outside world to deal with our region, ironically in an Arab political discourse, that of tribal raids and paying tributes.

The most coveted commodity, oil, has brought the worst in Iraq by her desire for regional domination and the worst in America. It humiliated the Jeffersonian ideals of freedom and democracy, at the oil rigs of Arabia and the mountains of Kurdistan.

Between the US and Iraq, what each licenses for himself, refuses for the other, and both do not care for the deprivation they are causing to the region. The clash between them has never been that of the Titans, nor will it ever be, but rather a combination of subjective factors enmeshed with objective realities.

The US as the only world superpower dictates imperatives, one of which, is the refusal to be taunted by president Saddam, especially when elections are round the corner. President Clinton may be doing well in the election polls, but a few more points in reserve will certainly ensure his reelection even if there is a sudden surge of voting for Mr Dole. In the meantime, the US will still show that it has the upper hand in the region and the oil supply will not be hampered by the travails of inter-Arab politics.

The perception of Islam as an inherently violent religion and an unstable Arab world, is a convenient argument for the US to formulate populist policies for local consumption. While president Saddam has shown bluntly that the territorial unity of his country under his own control is far more important than any deal, he may or he may not get to export his oil, and feed his people. Since 1991, we have observed him trying to get away with whatever he can. This is even at the expense of inviting limited American response. Saddam realizes that support for US policies against Iraq, both among the West and in the Arab world, is waning.

Therefore, pushing the US to the brink, will transform the confrontation from a UN-supported affair, to that of a battle between the US and Iraq. ■

Nation



Look at this, Eto...
mouth to feed."

Most people
see Sally
as a
pet.

generally described as
larvae delinquents

He's drawing
a kind of fight!"

line decoder. Professor
is the first human being
ing dogs are actually seen

Concert
The British Council
September... at 11
University... 22 Sep.
Yarmouth University
Sep

SEPTEMBER 1996

A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS

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Friendship, not work, is the requirement for today's successful domestic animal

Cats and dogs now rule the animal kingdom

In a world where millions of people are starving, huge sums of money are spent each day to acquire and feed domestic animals whose utility value grows less and less each year. Despite the cost, this worldwide love affair with pets keeps growing

By Daniel Samper

JUDGING BY Hollywood cartoons and movies, which never tire of showing Pancho sporting a mustache, sombrero and burro, there must be a donkey for every Mexican.

As it turns out, those who create this image deserve to clean up after Pancho's donkey: since the reality is very different. While the number of Mexicans grows at a rate of 2.2 percent a year, the country's donkey population is diminishing. It is estimated that there are just under 3.2 million donkeys in the entire country—so cartoonists who want to be on the cutting edge should place 30 peasants around each burro.

This phenomenon is not limited to Mexico. It's universal. Donkeys, mules and other domestic animals vital for mankind's survival only a few decades ago now seem doomed to disappear. For centuries Spain was a land of horses and caballeros, of mules and muleters. Today there only 110,000 mules and 248,000 horses. Not to mention the sharp reduction of caballeros (jackasses) a subject worthy of Don Juan. Only 120,000 remain, and this number diminishes every day. The Industrial Revolution was good for mankind, but enormously traumatic for animals. With the arrival of modern transportation and the steam engine, horses, mules, oxen and donkeys were herded off the economic landscape. This revolution also paved the way for the mass production of food derived from barnyard animals, which left hunting animals out of a job.

The last blow was the expansion of cities at the expense of rural life. The ancestral homes where chickens and pigs were raised became a picturesque relic of the past. Most people now live in tiny apartments.

The only animals that are flourishing are those that, thanks to their intelligence, size and other characteristics, were able to adapt. Dogs and cats top this list. To remain in the home, the dogs sharpened their guarding and patrolling skills, the cats their mouse-catching ability. Later, when nuclear families were dissolved, there was a new role for both species: that of companions.

Dogs living in Neolithic Europe 5,000 years ago were already domes-

tic animals. For several millennia before that they had been wolves or coyotes. But the great transformation occurred since 1900. From earning a living as hunting animals, they evolved into watchdogs. And from procuring their own food they turned into adorable parasites that depend on their owners to fill their bellies.

This new status has been a blessing for dogs. Better cared than ever, they are the new crowned heads of the animal kingdom. Horses, who had held that title for centuries, were dethroned since it is tough to keep them in 80 square meter apartments. Has anyone attempted to watch TV sitting on a couch with a horse next to him? Or with a donkey on his lap? Does anyone know what it is to clean to the

sputa on a rug left by a mule?

The result is that the horse population today—some 60 million in the entire world—is lower than that of any domestic or barnyard animal, with the exception of mules and donkeys. There are 1.3 billion cattle, 1.13 billion sheep, 865 million pigs, 550 million ducks, and 259 million turkeys. The chicken population is more than double the human population, and even the buffalo population, which stands at 147 million, is three times larger than the donkey population.

In addition, there are about 350 million dogs and 320 million cats worldwide. This is a very rough estimate because, unlike other animals, cats and dogs are not part of the GNP since they aren't considered useful and valuable like cattle. In the US dogs continue to be the favorite pet (they are present in 36.5 percent of all households, compared to cats, present in only 30.9 percent). Birds are very far behind (5.7 percent), and fish even more so (2.8 percent).

Boosted by the success of cat books like the Garfield cartoon series, cats look set to overtake dogs as the most popular pet in the US. In France, however, dogs have displaced cats, which always seemed so very French. In 1969 there were 6 million dogs and 6.3 million cats. After 1975, the cat population started to decline. In 1988 Pluto's friends numbered 9 million, compared to 7 million of their furry, spitting adversaries. The French sociologist Paul Yonnet explains that popularity of pets in the following terms: "Through close encounters of the third kind with cats and dogs, men and women fight not only against their educational loneliness, but also against the loneliness of the human species." Yonnet's thesis is that the owner has as much enjoyment educating his pet as using it as a companion.



US pets travel first class

Estimated annual value of pet products industry in the US: \$15 billion.

Shelf space taken up by canned pet food in the average American supermarket, in feet: 163.

Space taken up by canned soup, in feet: 104.

Number of pets blessed at the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at New York's cathedral of St. John the Divine in 1989: 1,000.

Pet death support groups in the US: 65.

Snakes are the most expensive reptile with an average cost of \$156. Snake owners spend about \$275 a year on products and services (including food). They are the most expensive to maintain. Non-surgical vet visits costs are \$63.

Turtles are the least expensive reptiles to buy and to maintain with an average cost of \$20 and annual maintenance of \$87. Vet visits average \$10.

Hamster owners spend \$96 a year on care and maintenance.

Guinea pig owners spend \$245 on their pets each year.

SOURCE: AMERICAN PET PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

The truth is that dogs and cats need to be reeducated. From running freely across the fields chasing rabbits, birds or mice, they have become jailed consumers. Dogs no longer cause the problems they did in the past, when they attacked hares and killed cattle in wild packs. Now they become neurotic and their droppings drive mayors crazy.

For the first problem, cat and dog psychiatrists have emerged (maybe some open minded canary might benefit as well). Dr. Roger Abrantes, a Dan-

ish veterinary that also teaches mailmen to "read" the growls of watchdogs, is one such specialist. Also professors such as Nicholas Dodman, from the prestigious Tufts University in the US, who recommends treating extremely nervous dogs with Prozac, as if they were militant business executives.

For the second problem—fecal contamination—many solutions have been tried, from canine public baths up to steep fines for their owners. This is no laughing matter. According to a study undertaken just a few weeks ago, canine detritus on the streets of Madrid increases a whopping 65 percent every two years. In 1986 this was one of the issues debated during the campaign to elect the mayor of Paris. The incumbent, Jacques Chirac, had deployed a flotilla of 100 *moineaux*, or "pompomobiles," and the opposition considered that the cost of the poop collection equipment was nothing short of outrageous: US\$33 a pound.

There's no doubt that, in terms of waste, the dogs are given a run for their money by the political campaigns that make their everyday needs an issue. Nevertheless, cats and dogs seem to be entering the 21st century with the peace of mind that comes from being an integral part of the human family.

And as far as donkeys go, perhaps the new century will reserve for them a place in the zoo. ■

DANIEL SAMPER is *The World Paper's* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR EUROPE.

ing to these laws, all urban-dwelling dog owners must pay 5,000 to 10,000 yuan for the registration of a dog—usually granted by the public security authorities—and 2,000 to 3,000 yuan for its annual renewal.

Many citizens welcomed the restrictions, but quite a few dog-owners really felt angered. "It is crazy to toll 5,000 yuan as registration fee from a retired worker like me, which is about my yearly pension," says Wang Xijiu, a 65-year-old woman in Beijing. "I only want a companion."

Local dog-owners' opposition has forced the authorities in Beijing to lower the registration fee to 3,000 yuan, but the annual renewal charge remains at 2,000 yuan. "I don't know if I can afford to pay the toll next year," Wang sighs, adding that her wood-processing factory is struggling to

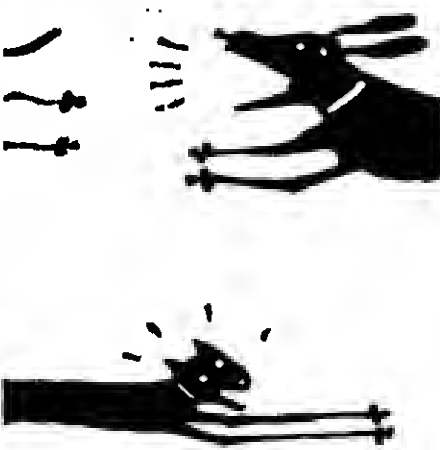
► A BIG SHADOW PAGE 2

TOP DOGS?

The feline:canine ratio (in millions)

Country	Dogs	Cats
Australia	3.2	2.8
Austria	0.8	0.8
Belgium	1.3-1.8	1.5-1.7
Denmark	0.6	0.5
Finland	0.5	0.4
France	9	7
Germany	8.81	8.26
Greece	0.4	0.4
Holland	1.4	1.9
Ireland	0.5	0.3
Italy	6	7
Portugal	1.3	0.8
Russia	39	47
Spain (1994)	3.5	3
Sweden	1	0.9
UK	6.55	7.23
US	54.2	64

SOURCE: PET INDUSTRY ADVERTISING COUNCIL



Caution marks the Chinese approach to pets

Beijing casts a big shadow over dogs and their owners

By Zhou Fang

HU SONGYUN, an 85-year-old Beijing resident, walks out of his house every morning for a one-hour stroll with his four bird-cages. After that he joins a group of his friends, all bird-lovers, at a tiny street park in the western part of the city. While the old men chat, their caged birds sing and show off their plumage in the sunshine.

"I love to talk to my birds and they understand me," says Hu, a retired accountant. "We are fond of each other." In fact, since his wife died seven years ago, the birds have been the only creatures to keep him company. His sons and daughters all live in other districts and are too busy to visit their father often.

Birds are the most popular kind of pets in China. In Beijing alone, there are more than 160,000 households raising birds, according to Wang Zengnian, secretary general of the Beijing Bird-Loving and Raising Association, with 2,400 registered members. Ornamental fish, including goldfish and other species, are also popular pets. In the past two decades, shops selling rare ornamental fish and related goods, ranging from feed to latest electronic devices, have mushroomed across the country. Many people are making big money from the booming

business—a pair of dragon-fish may sell for 100,000 yuan (8.3 yuan equals US\$1).

Despite the boom, Chinese people have a very cautious approach to keeping pets. Few Chinese like to keep snakes, owls, crocodiles, lizards and spiders, regarding them as being too dangerous or too ugly. State law prohibits individuals from raising endangered species such as the Giant Panda, golden monkeys, tigers, leopards and bears. Cows, horses, sheep and pigs serve either as labor force or meat suppliers, therefore seldom appear as pets.

In fact, very few kinds of animals could be listed as pets in China.

Besides fish and birds, the two other major kinds of pets in China are cats and dogs. Here again the two animals have some practical purposes to serve: cats are expected to catch rats, dogs to look after the house, especially in rural China.

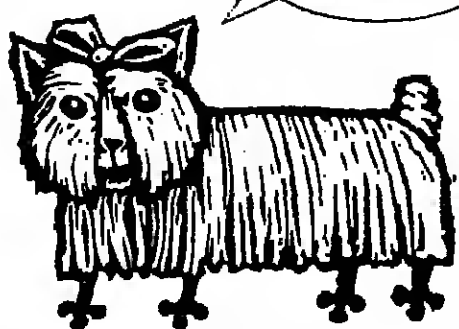
Many Chinese consider cat the prettiest, smartest and most cunning ani-

mal, and applaud its skills as a rat-catcher. In China, rats are the last choice as a pet. To challenge the US-made "Mickey Mouse," Chinese cartoon-makers have created "Sergeant Black Cat" in which criminal rats are always overpowered by righteous cats.

While many urban Chinese have kept cats for decades, dogs only recently appeared as pets in Chinese cities. By the early 1990s, the dog population soared to 120 million, of which 12 million were

pets. They brought about a flourishing pet business which bewildered many Chinese citizens: pet shops, pet-food stores and pet-hospitals. The enormous profits in the dog trade drove people to smuggle a large number of puppies from other countries, especially the former Soviet republics.

Unlike the quiet, self-sufficient cats, from the very beginning the barking dogs aroused much controversy among



I'm an ideological contaminant of the bourgeoisie

sociologists, social workers, government officials and ordinary citizens. Shortly after the first spell of dog-fervor emerged in the early 1980s, the animals became the target of a political campaign directed against "ideological contaminants of the bourgeoisie," prompted by people who viewed keeping dogs for pets as too alien a lifestyle for a developing country like China.

The move to chase and beat dogs raised as pets in cities, however, met vehement opposition from those who believed that these pets were a sign of China's new open policy, and argued that cruelty to these pets might mar the country's international image. As a result, pet dogs managed to survive and even thrive in Chinese cities for several more years, until too many citizens found it hard to tolerate them.

"Pets, especially dogs, have caused certain social problems," observes a deputy to the Beijing People's Congress, the city's parliament, which adopted a local decree on restricting pet dogs in 1994. "They sometimes pollute streets and disturb the neighborhood life. And dogs have a good appetite as well—the 120 million dogs in China consume some 15 billion kg of grain annually, enough to feed 40 million people, while some 70 million Chinese are living under the poverty-line with a net per capita annual income of 500 yuan and 350 kilograms of grain."

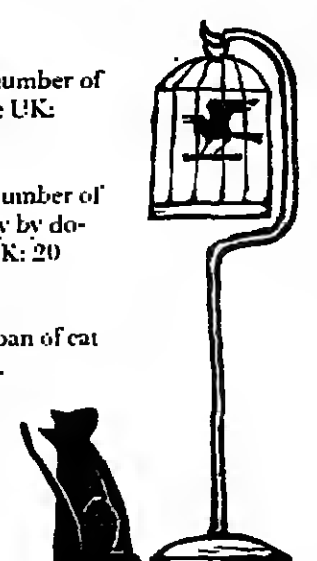
On the other hand, says the deputy—who declines to give his

Estimated number of domestic cats in the UK: 7.23 million.

Estimated number of birds killed annually by domestic cats in the UK: 20 million.

Average life span of cat in the UK: 14 years.

CHARTS COMPILED BY GARY YOUNG



THE PRICE OF PETS

The friendship of "man's best friend" does not come free



Utility pets lead a marketing boom

Brazilians open their doors to animal companionship

By Carlos Castillo

DILSON NEVES earns US\$230 a month working in Brazil's "informal economy." There is little money to spare for luxuries. In early June, however, he spent \$53—more than a quarter of his monthly income—trying to save the life of his street dog in a veterinary clinic.

In the same month Joana Metz, a retired public servant, paid \$60 to treat the broken leg her singing bird sustained. The veterinarian's bill was three times the price of the bird in a pet shop.

For Neves and Metz, money wasn't an issue compared to the health of their pets. But money matters a lot to veterinary laboratories, pet shop owners,

and mammals, almost one animal for every seven humans. Cats and dogs account for nine out of every 10 pets.

What has changed dramatically in the last 10 years is the relation between "indoor" and "outdoor" pets. There are no reliable statistics, but one experienced vet estimates that, until the 1980s, approximately 60 percent of

Brazil's canine population were "street dogs." Today, only 40 percent fall into this category.

The explanation for this radical change has more to do with psychology than with public health, economy or social fashion, according to Rio de Janeiro therapist José Francisco Lins de Silva. "Animals are becoming more important to the emotional balance of the families in general than boys and girls," says Silva. "People transfer affection to pets more easily than to a son or a daughter. They say that when you care for a dog it reciprocates completely. The same doesn't happen with human beings."

Vets confirm this explanation. "Almost three in every five of my clients call their dogs and cats 'my son' or 'my love.' Their tolerance for pets is bigger than for kids' misconduct"

Most three in every five of my clients call their dogs and cats 'my son' or 'my love.' Their tolerance for pets is bigger than for kids' misconduct"

located in the southern part of Brazil.

Affection is not the only reason Brazilians are buying pets. "Utility pets" are the fastest growing category, mainly because Brazilians are using more and more dogs as a defensive weapon in crime-ridden big cities. In Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, the usual jogging places are also a parade of German sheep dogs, Dobermans, Pit Bulls, Brazilian Filas and Rottweilers.

Those robust and threatening animals often tow their owners, especially if they are women.

"I've been robbed many times by street kids and drug-addicted teenagers. After I decided to buy a Rottweiler, nobody dares to attack me anymore while I'm jogging," says Olivia Fagundes, a stock exchange consultant who probably spends more energy and calories trying to control her ugly-faced, four-legged bodyguard than she does running around the pleasant Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, in the sophisticated Southern zone of Rio de Janeiro.

Nine in every 10 Brazilian socialites are now escorted by Rottweilers, the new favorite security dog. Dobermans are considered too dangerous for street walking and are now confined to backyards. German sheep dogs and the Filas, the only Brazilian breed recognized by the International Kennel Club, are no longer in fashion. Huskies and Akitas are getting more and more popular but face a severe handicap. They are typi-

cal cold climate dogs and are terribly affected by the tropical temperatures of Brazilian summer.

Poodles and Cocker spaniels are number one pets in Brazilian living rooms, but diversity seems to be the name of the game currently in the country. Pet Care, the only five star animal hospital in Brazil, has files on almost 127 different breeds of dogs brought in by their owners with health problems. The clinic, a five-floor building located in the well-off area of Morumbi in São Paulo, treats between 30 to 40 animals daily. Three to four of them go to its high tech Intensive Unit Care, where the minimum rate is \$40 per hour.

Feeding pets is big business even in Brazil. The Brazilian Association of Animal Food Producers estimates the annual national consumption of nutritional products for dogs and cats at 320,000 tons. Consumption is growing by 25 percent every year, making the country an extremely attractive market. Before the reforms in the Brazilian economy, all the animal food was produced locally, but now foreign brands are increasingly common on the shelves of pet shops. Rawson Purina is the biggest producer but giants as Nestle and Colgate Palmolive are planning huge investments in the pet business.

Pharmaceutical laboratories are also eyeing this market. Pfizer and Merck are still the kings of the Brazilian market but the Rhodia-Merieux group is releasing an average of two new drugs per month in order the get a bigger



In Canada it is legal to use flesh from "4-D" animals—dead, dying, disabled and diseased stock—for pet food. Some companies have even been known to use roadkill.

Government officials in Quebec openly acknowledge use of pets in pet food.

The guilded cage

Legal international trade in exotic pets: \$10 billion annually.
Estimated illegal trade: \$20-\$25 billion annually.

Price of a Mexican yellow-naped parrot:
In the nest: \$25
At the Mexican/US border: \$250
In a US pet shop: \$3,000

Estimated number of Spix Macaws in the wild: 1
Price of a breeding pair of macaws in Europe: \$25,000.

Prices quoted by the Online Exotic Pets Mail:

Brazilian Rainbow boas: \$250.

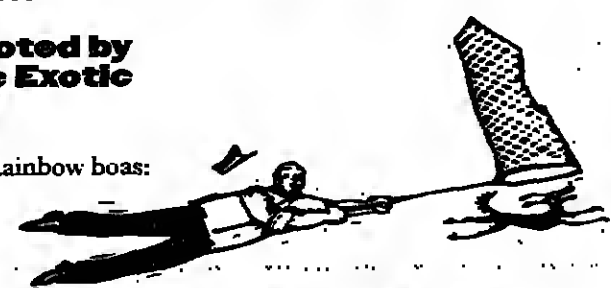
Canadian Lynx kittens, 3-6 weeks old: \$800.

Moluccan Cockatoo bird: \$1,150.

Black Cap Lory bird chicks: \$750 weaned, \$675 unweaned.

Split/Blue Princess parakeet: \$6,225.

Reindeer: males fetch \$2,000, female \$3,000.



A BIG SHADOW

Continued from page 1

avoid bankruptcy. In China, most of the retirees like Wang still draw their pension from their original employers, while the reform on the old cradle-to-grave social welfare system is still in its initial stage.

Efforts to restrict the pet population have proved effective. In Beijing, the dog population has dropped from 220,000 in 1993 to the present 96,000. Many people who found it too dear to keep their pets simply gave them away.

Beijing's law prohibits urban dog-owners to walk their pets in the day time. The hours that dogs can breathe fresh air are between 7 p.m. to 8 a.m., which has led to a spectacular night scene in the city—large groups of dogs led by their owners parading over empty sidewalks. ☐

ZHOU FANG WRITES FOR CHINA FEATURES, A DIVISION OF THE BEIJING-BASED XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

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Celebs...



● The British catwalk model Naomi Campbell comes face to face with her Madame Tussaud's wax double at the fashion cafe in London. The sculptor of Madame Tussaud's legendary hall of fame, Jim Kempton, met Naomi at the end of the last year to take all the measurements needed. Her double will join the figures of 400 celebrities in the world.

The Star's GUIDE TV PE

Programs on JTV
from 14-20 September

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3:00—Teletext
3:00—Holy Koran
3:45—Moomin
3:45—Pumpkin Patch
3:45—Blue Heelers
3:45—Big Brother Jake
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:30—The Torkelsons
8:00—The Album Show
8:45—Miami Vice
9:15—Prism
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:15—Feature Film: In the Line of Duty, starring: Adam Arkin & Nicholas Turturro

MONDAY

2:00—Teletext
3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Adventures On Rain-
bow Pond
3:30—Oscar's Orchestra
3:45—Playabout
4:15—World Echo (Doc)
4:50—Hey Dad
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Hypnotic World
of Paul McKenna
8:00—Deep Probe Expedi-
tions (Doc)
9:10—The Lazarus Man
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold & The
Beautiful
11:10—Bodies Of Evidence

TUESDAY

2:00—Teletext
3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Iris-The Happy
Professor
3:20—Captain Planet
3:45—Alf
4:10—Road to Avonlea
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Blossom
8:00—Man Alive (Doc)
8:30—Encounter
8:45—Varieties
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Mission Impossible

SUNDAY

2:00—Teletext
3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Fleisch American Tails
3:30—Just The Job
3:45—Italian Soccer
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—American Chart Show
8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
9:10—Blackie's Magic
10:25—News at Ten
10:25—Jamaica Inn
12:00—Sport Story Cinema



Elizabeth Taylor in The Last Time I Saw Paris, on Friday at 10:25pm

11:15—China Beach
12:00—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

2:00—Teletext
3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Iris
3:20—The Flintstones
3:45—The Adventurers
4:10—Kelly
4:30—Earth Revealed
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Four Seasons
8:00—Super Stars of Action
8:30—Chancer
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold & The
Beautiful
11:15—Bugs

THURSDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Jonny Quest
3:30—NBA Basketball
4:30—Take Your Pick
5:00—French Programs

7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Here's Lucy
8:00—In Good Company
(Doc)
8:30—Challenges
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: Shot-
tered Family, starring: Richard
Crenna & Rhea Perlman
12:00—Family Matters

FRIDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
3:05—Dumb and Dumber
3:30—Name Your Adventure
4:15—Crystal Maze
5:00—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—Growing Pains
8:00—Nasty Buys
8:45—Secret Weapons
9:10—The Wanderer
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: The
Last Time I Saw Paris, star-
ing: Elizabeth Taylor and Van
Johnson

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Les bons génies
6:00—Série
Police des polices
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver
—USA—

DIMANCHE

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Qui est qui
6:00—Magazine
La marche du siècle
« 9,000,000 de bene-
volens », 12e partie
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Les bons génies
6:00—Magazine
La marche du siècle
« 9,000,000 de bene-
volens », 21e partie
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Qui est qui
6:00—Variétés

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Video releases

"SGT. BILKO" (MCA/Universal): The classic character made popular on TV by Phil Silvers in the 1950s is revived by Steve Martin, who keeps the Army officer's wheezing-and-dealing ways thriving ... much to the chagrin of Bilko's superiors (Dan Aykroyd, Phil Hartman) and fiancée (Glenn Headly). Particularly amusing is Bilko's golf game on the military base during maneuvers. ** (PG: P, V)

"THE TRUTH ABOUT CATS & DOGS" (Fox): The appeal of Janeane Garofalo goes a long way in this light-weight but enjoyable romantic comedy. She plays a radio pet-advice-show host who attracts a handsome dog-owner (Ben Chaplin) over the airwaves, but fearing he won't like her looks, she asks a lovely neighbor (Uma Thurman) to impersonate her ... with inevitable complications resulting. *** (PG-13: AS, P)

COMING SOON: "THE BIRDCAVE" (MGM/UA, Sept. 17): Robin Williams and Nathan Lane star in director Mike Nichols' hit revision of the French comedy "La Cage aux Folles." (R)

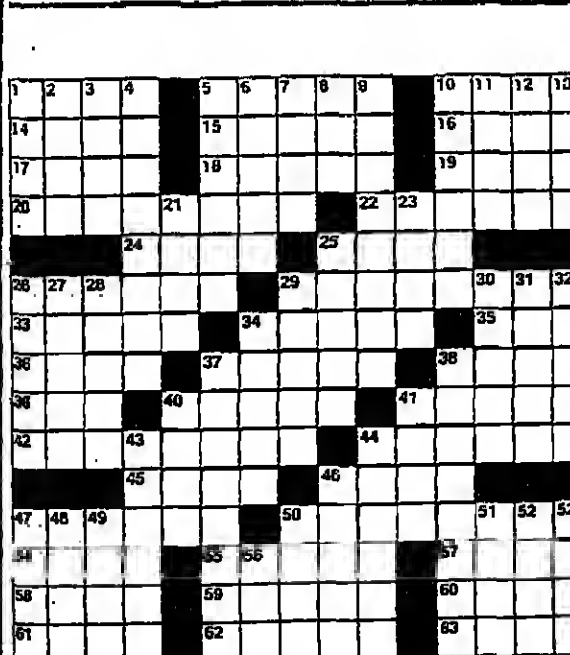
"KIDS IN THE HALL: BRAIN CANDY" (Paramount, Sept. 17): The members of the Canadian comedy troupe (including "NewsRadio's" Dave Foley) cut loose. (R)

"THE QUEST" (MCA/Universal, Sept. 17): Jean-Claude Van Damme makes his directing debut with this adventure, in which he also stars with Roger Moore. (PG-13)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS
1 Year
3 Best part
10 Restaurant
14 Wind
15 Ronsaat of song
16 E pluribus
17 Poker stake
18 Of birds
19 Saton treatment, for short
20 Scorned
22 Not wide-awake
24 Multitude
25 Cat's paw
26 A science
29 Cave in
33 Smoothies
34 Lamer
35 Cloth for dusting
36 Shipshape
37 Feminine fable
38 Playing card
39 G.P.s
40 More rational
41 Subsequently
42 Features of churches
43 Road
44 Tells untruths
45 Old pronoun
47 Given ones
50 Shoes
51 Freshly
52 Tooth
53 podrida
54 In excess
55 Came to be
56 Newspaper item
61 Lord's wife
62 Elfs
63 Sticky fruit
DOWN
1 School abbr.
2 Solid figure
3 Successes
4 Massive animal
5 Elegant
6 Bolt for an i-beam
7 Oklahoma city
8 Nabokov title
9 Singed instrument
10 Done
11 Freshly
12 Ermine and other
13 Entertain-ment award
21 Charged particles
23 Croissant
25 Onward
26 Makes crooked
27 Manliest
28 Tantalize
29 Makes healthy again
30 Lying flat
31 Worcester-shire, for one
32 Hiron
34 Longs
37 Store worker
38 Certain fuel
40 Rod for testing
41 Printing term
43 — Queen
44 Coasts
46 Blowned bread
47 Missing soldier
48 Prima donna
49 Secondhand
50 Current
51 Isle of exile
52 Dismounted
53 Appraise
56 Mineral earth

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Practice your oratory or dramatic skills, even if it's scary. Aries (March 21-April 19). There's lots of work for you. Take careful notes — details matter. A new game is a bit of a challenge, but you'll do fine.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Get your living quarters squared away. You'll have a lot of reading and writing to do, so stick pretty close to home.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You'll easily impress your friends with your brilliance. You could attract new romance with your cheerful attitude.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Get something you need for yourself, but save enough for a date. Review your notes and get organized. Adapt to changes.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Take care of unfinished business — you'll have more time to play with your favorite friend later. Get to know your neighbors.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have more autonomy and authority. Go over your work carefully — bugs could creep in. Go shopping.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Don't feel overwhelmed for long — get organized instead. Don't believe everything you hear — a rumor is in error.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Put your team together and face a difficult problem together. Play later, you have work to do.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Supervisors expect perfection, but even they will make mistakes. Relax with friends. The party will last through the weekend.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Pay fees. If you need more money, get a job or apply for a loan. Patch up a misunderstanding and rearrange your schedule.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll win the competition using an old trick. Apply for a loan. Shop carefully or you'll get something you don't even need.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Hurry to keep up with work. A partner can help you get organized. There'll be complications — pay attention to the details.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Finish old business and you'll get what was promised. Private decisions and commitments shift your life's direction.

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Bridge

Rubber Bridge or Duplicate?
By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
▲ 10 6 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ K 10 5
▲ A Q J 8

WEST
▲ K 8 5
♥ 4
♦ A Q J 9 8 7 2
▲ 9 6

EAST
▲ J 9 7 3
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 4
▲ K 10 7 5 4

SOUTH
▲ A Q
♥ A K 10 7 6 3 2
♦ 6 3
▲ 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♣ Pass 1♥ 3♦
Pass Pass 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣.
Study this diagram, then decide how you would play the hand at duplicate bridge and continues with the queen. Would you adopt a different approach at rubber bridge?

With a sound opening bid facing a partner who had opened, South brushed aside West's interference and bid game in hearts. West attacked with the ace of diamonds and contin-

ued with the queen, covered by the king and ruffed by East. Declarer tried the finesse when East returned a spade, but was out of luck. Eventually, declarer was forced to concede a club to the king to end up down one.

South's play was correct only at duplicate. The heart game would succeed if West started with only six diamonds, or if either black-suit finesse were to succeed. The possibility was simply too great to be ignored.

At rubber bridge, however, declarer could have virtually insured the contract at the cost of a paltry over-trick. Did you spot the winning play?

Declarer should refuse to cover the queen of diamonds at trick two. Since declarer can afford to lose two diamond tricks and a club, it is more important to keep East off lead than try to collect a diamond trick. If East ruffs to shift to a spade, the king of diamonds is established for a black-suit discard; if East discards, South can do no better than play a club, forcing South to finesse the jack to maintain communications with dummy. Although that loses, declarer can rise with the ace of spades on East's expected return, draw trumps and stuff the queen of spades on one of dummy's high winners.

Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, in four ordinary words.

TOBAN
DAMEF
SHULOC
LOBIED

Answer: HE

WITH NO HE COLU/NTED WITH HIS bookkeeper? — HE COLU/NTED WITH HIS bookkeeper? — HE COLU/NTED WITH HIS bookkeeper?

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Words of Wisdom

Pain teaches us the luxury of pleasure.

A person who assumes the most knows the least.

Anxiety robs the pleasure of the moment because it anticipates the worst will occur at any time.

Jealousy will always find an enemy.

Money has both the power to free and to enslave those who control it.

Anger is deceptive because it makes you believe you are calm and clear-headed when you are anything but.

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Jordanian Airforce helps Castrol-sponsored thrust SSC speed trials

EXPERTS FROM the Royal Jordanian Airforce have been helping prepare the test track for a car which, it is hoped, will be the first land-based vehicle to break through the sound barrier.

The airforce personnel have been trying out areas of the Al Jafra desert where the Thrust SSC vehicle, sponsored by Castrol, will be making final preparations for this autumn's attempt on the world land speed record.

Work was necessary to extend a 7.5 mile (12 kms) stretch of the desert, 125 miles (200 kms) south of Amman, by nearly three extra miles (4.8 kms). The extended track, across sunbaked mud, means that Thrust SSC will be able to approach maximum speed during its test runs and then brake safely.

Al Jafra was chosen by the Castrol-sponsored Thrust SSC team after team leader and current world land speed record holder, Richard Noble, had scoured three continents looking for a suitable venue.

He said "It looks as if we will be facing a head-on clash in going for the record with American Craig Breedlove."

"He has had the tremendous advantage of being able to test his vehicle at the Edwards Air Force base, used by the space shuttle craft, and five miles of desert in addition."

"We had been looking for somewhere similar to prepare for what is going to be the greatest car race of the decade, and it was only after a programme on BBC television that we heard about Al Jafra."

"Ken Waughman was sitting at home watching the program when he remembered his days as a driver with the British Survey team in Jordan 50 years ago. He rang us and told us about Al Jafra."

As soon as we arrived we knew it was the place we were looking for, both in terms of conditions and length of track. When His Majesty King Hussein gave permission for us to use the area we were delighted."

Thrust SSC could be travelling across the desert at speeds of around 600 mph (960 kph) with British airforce pilot Andy Green at the controls.

During the trials, which will be followed by the world record attempt in the United States of America, the Thrust SSC team will be housed in the nearby Al Jafra military base.

Castrol, the principal company of the Lubricants division of the Bunnah Castrol Group, have sponsored a lot of the research and development work for Thrust SSC. The company will provide lubricants for the Rolls Royce jet engines as well as for the hearings in the aluminium alloy wheels which will rotate at 8500 rpm and have a massive heat build-up.

Specially designed lubricants will be used to maintain the efficiency and peak performance of each of the 25,000 lb (11,340 kgs) thrust of the twin jet engines and to ensure that the wheel bearings play their vital role.

Castrol's backing for thrust SSC is the latest in a long history of support for world land speed record attempts over the last 75 years, including for Richard Noble's record setting runs of 633.48 mph (1019.44 kph) in 1983. ■

The Star
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Tel. 652380



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THEM!

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Les Arabes soutiennent l'Irak et mettent en garde Israël

● A l'issue de la 106^{ème} session du conseil de la Ligue arabe qui s'est tenue au Caire le week-end dernier, les pays arabes ont apporté leur soutien à l'Irak et menacé de reconsidérer la normalisation avec Israël si l'Etat hébreu n'honorait pas ses engagements vis-à-vis du processus de paix.

Dans une unanimité peu commune depuis l'invasion irakienne du Koweït en 1990, les représentants des 22 pays membres de la Ligue arabe ont «condamnée avec force l'ingérence étrangère de certains pays voisins dans les affaires internes» de l'Irak, faisant allusion à la Turquie ou à l'Iran.

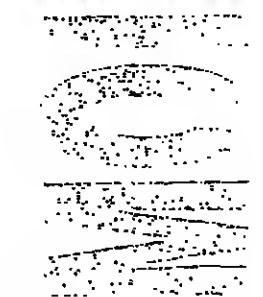
Le Conseil des ministres arabes des Affaires étrangères s'est déclaré dans un communiqué «extrêmement soucieux de préserver l'indépendance et la souveraineté de l'Irak, l'unité de son territoire et sa sécurité régionale».

Par ailleurs, les Arabes ont menacé de geler la normalisation avec Israël. Les ministres ont affirmé dans une résolution que «toute transgression ou remise en cause par Israël des principes sur lesquels a été édifié le processus de paix contraindrait les Etats arabes à revoir les démarches entreprises à son égard dans le cadre du processus de paix».

Le secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe Esmat Abdel Méguïd (à droite sur notre photo lors du sommet du Caire en juin) a déclaré que les projets de création d'une Cour de justice arabe, d'une instance arabe de prévention des conflits et d'un pacte d'honneur arabe avaient été reportés à la session de mars 1997.



SELON



En 1963, dans le cadre de l'Université de Yale, le professeur Milgram et son équipe ont réalisé une expérience scientifique sans précédent.

Des habitants d'un quartier de bourgeoisie moyenne de New Haven ont été invités à infliger à d'autres habitants des chocs électriques douloureux dans le cadre d'un programme de recherches. Ils obéissaient ainsi aux autorités scientifiques qui prétendaient que ces décharges seraient bénéfiques à long terme pour ceux qui les recevaient, dans la mesure où ils aidaient à apprendre une série d'exercices.

A l'exception de quelques sujets qui, s'apercevant du caractère sautillant de l'expérience, refusèrent de la continuer, tous les autres s'y prêtèrent en obéissant aux ordres d'administrer des décharges d'intensité croissante. Le responsable de l'expérience, accepté sans réserve en tant qu'autorité scientifique par la plupart des participants, leur disait: «Appuyez bien sur le levier, administrer le choc et cela leur fera du bien». Ceux qui étaient chargés d'administrer ces chocs violents n'hésitaient alors pas à le faire, même si ceux qui les recevaient, des comédiens professionnels, criaient, avaient des réflexes convulsifs ou faisaient semblant de s'évanouir. Ils surmonteraient simplement leur empathie naturelle. Les protocoles et les rapports d'expérience montraient pourtant qu'elle était présente, puisque la majorité des sujets manifestaient des symptômes psychosomatiques pendant l'opération: ils transpiraient, commençaient à trembler, bégayaient, se mordaient les lèvres ou cédaient à des accès de rire nerveux. Mais ils le faisaient. Les protocoles rendaient évident le fait qu'ils avaient chassé de leur conscience leur réaction personnelle à la souffrance et avait oublié celle de leurs victimes.

Milgram, était un simple scientifique, ni psychologue ni neurologue, qui a ainsi voulu montrer comment la complaisance à l'égard de l'autorité pouvait conduire à la négation de ses propres sentiments humains.

En ce moment même, les salles de travaux pratiques de Yale ont été démontées dans le Moyen-Orient, le peuple américain ayant pris le rôle des habitants de New Haven et Bill Clinton celui du professeur Milgram qui donne l'ordre d'infliger les pires souffrances à un peuple qui résiste depuis six ans aux plus hauts volages des chocs Yankee.

Pourquoi ennuyer les poissons des océans quand on peut essayer les dernières armes fatales sur le peuple irakien? Pourquoi perturber le silence du Nevada quand les Marines peuvent s'entraîner en toute sécurité et au vu dans un autre désert tout proche, à quelques 15.000 kilomètres de chez eux?

Pourquoi depuis des décennies est-ce toujours le massacre des Apaches dans les westerns qui amuse les Américains alors que l'on peut éviter la monotonie en y faisant participer les Irakiens?

A une époque où l'Amérique croyait posséder un jour des principes humanitaires, un certain Benjamin Franklin disait: «ceux qui abandonnent une liberté essentielle pour une sécurité temporaire ne méritent ni la liberté, ni la sécurité». Les leçons de l'Histoire sont nombreuses et les peuples opprimés arrivent toujours à l'emporter sur l'injustice et la barbarie.

Souhail Al Sweis

Education La Jordanie lutte contre les mots de l'analphabétisme

Selon les dernières estimations du ministère jordanien de l'Education, la Jordanie serait sur le point de ramener le taux d'analphabétisme de la population âgée de plus de quinze ans à moins de 10%. Un chiffre qui place le royaume hachémite au rang des bons élèves parmi les pays arabes. Mais de nombreux efforts restent à faire, et ce particulièrement pour les femmes, premières victimes de l'analphabétisme.

«Si nous voulons combattre la pauvreté, l'injustice et la violence, nous devons mobiliser les cerveaux à travers l'éducation et l'alphabétisme». Ces propos figurent dans le récent discours de Federico Mayor, directeur général de l'Unesco, prononcé à l'occasion de la journée internationale contre l'analphabétisme qui a eu lieu le 8 septembre dernier. «L'analphabétisme ne fait pas partie de la vie. C'est une conséquence de l'action de la part des gouvernements et des sociétés».

Voilà maintenant trente ans que cette journée internationale existe. Elle a pour but d'insister sur le caractère indispensable de l'éducation et de l'alphabétisme afin de bâtir un monde meilleur, plus juste et plus égalitaire.

La Jordanie, qui a imposé l'éducation obligatoire en 1952, célèbre fièrement cette journée en se prévalant d'un taux d'analphabétisme de 12% parmi la population âgée de plus de quinze ans. Elle fait partie,

grâce à ce chiffre, des pays arabes ayant le plus faible taux d'analphabétisme, selon Ahmad el Sous, chargé au ministère de l'Education de s'occuper des réseaux éducatifs existant en marge du traditionnel système scolaire.

Selon des statistiques de 1996, 44% de la population du monde arabe est analphabète, soit environ 70 millions d'individus de plus de quinze ans.

«On estime que le nombre d'analphabètes se monte à 880 millions d'adultes dans les pays en voie de développement, et plus de 200 millions dans les pays industrialisés», poursuivait Federico Mayor dans son discours. «L'objectif est qu'en l'an 2000, quatre adultes sur cinq soient capables de lire».

Le ministère jordanien de l'Education définit un analphabète comme quelqu'un ayant dépassé l'âge de dix ans sans avoir fréquenté un établissement scolaire ou avoir appris à lire ou écrire. Les efforts ont commencé très tôt en Jorda-

nie pour ramener le pourcentage très haut qui existait au début du siècle, 90%, au chiffre actuel de 12%.

«La Jordanie a hérité d'une ignorance qu'il fallait combattre», explique Ahmad el Sous. «Au début, cela s'est fait dans les mosquées avec les sheikhs religieux pour apprendre à lire le Coran». Après avoir rendu l'école obligatoire jusqu'à l'âge de seize ans en 1952, le gouvernement s'est ensuite intéressé à ceux qui passaient à travers les mailles du système éducatif.

Des enseignements existent depuis en marge du traditionnel système scolaire. Ils s'adressent à tous, peu importe l'âge, et vont du niveau élémentaire à celui du baccalauréat. Au cours du niveau élémentaire, l'élève suit un programme d'alphabétisation. «Le but de cette formation», explique Ahmad el Sous, «est que les adultes soient capables de lire et d'écrire grâce à deux heures de cours par jour après une année d'enseignement. Ils peuvent ensuite suivre des matières généralistes telles que les mathématiques, la religion ou les sciences, ou bien choisir des matières plus techniques comme maternité pour les femmes ou agriculture pour les hommes».



L'Unesco a pour objectif qu'en l'an 2000, quatre adultes sur cinq soient capables de lire ou de compter dans le monde entier.

Ceux ou celles qui souhaitent poursuivre leurs études ont le choix entre des cours du soir ou bien par correspondance. «Chacun est libre de s'organiser en fonction de son emploi du temps. Le plus important est que tous passent l'examen d'évaluation à la fin de l'année».

On compte aujourd'hui 607 centres d'éducation pour lutter contre l'analphabétisme dans

toute la Jordanie. 544 sont destinés aux femmes et 63 aux hommes. Sur l'année scolaire 1995/1996, 10.053 personnes y ont suivi des cours; 7.430 ont obtenu le diplôme initial d'alphabétisation qui leur permet de poursuivre leurs études.

Les femmes, principales victimes
Les femmes représentent 90% des effectifs scolarisés de

Evolution du pourcentage d'analphabétisme en Jordanie au sein de la population âgée de plus de quinze ans.

ANNEE	TOTAL	HOMMES	FEMMES
1961	67,6	47,2	88
1979	34,6	19,9	49
1987	22,5	12,1	33
1991	19,5	11	28
1994	14	9	19
1995	12	8	18

ces centres. Beaucoup d'entre elles n'ont en effet pas eu la chance de suivre un cursus scolaire classique dans leur jeunesse. à une époque où la femme pouvait difficilement sortir de son foyer. Et aujourd'hui, certaines tiennent à acquiescer un savoir dont elles ont été privées plus jeunes. «Les femmes, en général, tiennent à améliorer leur condition sociale et économique. Elles en ont aussi besoin pour aider leurs enfants dans leurs études. Mais la motivation religieuse reste la principale, pour pouvoir lire le Coran», explique Ahmad el Sous.

Tous ces centres sont supervisés et subventionnés par le ministère de l'Education. «On dispose d'un budget annuel de 25 millions de dinars pour financer les centres, payer les professeurs et acheter le matériel pédagogique nécessaire», ajoute El Sous. L'Unesco contribue aussi au financement de ces centres dans le cadre de ses programmes d'éducation pour tous. Cette organisation encourage aussi les efforts dans ce domaine en distribuant des récompenses aux pays luttant activement contre l'analphabétisme. La Jordanie avait ainsi obtenu voilà deux ans une importante distinction pour son action.

Lors de la conférence internationale sur l'éducation pour tous qui a eu lieu à Amman en juin dernier, la présidente du comité exécutif de la fondation caritative Nour al Hussein, In'am Moulli, avait répété l'importance de ce combat contre l'analphabétisme. «Ces gens sont des combattants qui, malgré les difficultés économiques et sociales de leur vie, ont lutté pour atteindre leur but. Ils illustrent avec leur vie l'importance de l'éducation, et nous incitent à accentuer encore nos efforts dans l'avenir».

Oroub el Abed

Illettrisme et analphabétisme

L'illettrisme et l'analphabétisme sont deux notions bien différentes.

L'illettrisme correspond à la situation de ceux qui ont oublié ou qui maîtrisent mal les connaissances qu'ils ont acquises à l'école (sens de l'écrit, aisance de l'expression orale, logique, du raisonnement et repères dans l'espace ou le temps). L'illettré est donc celui qui a en quelque sorte «désappris» à lire.

Le terme d'analphabète définit une personne qui n'a jamais eu de contact avec l'apprentissage de la lecture ou de l'écriture. Dans l'étymologie du concept d'analphabétisme, il demeure une idée de privation de l'accès au code de l'écrit.

Exposition

Darat al Funun cède tout son espace à l'art

Darat al Funun a ouvert ses galeries et son jardin à neuf expositions différentes dans le cadre de la manifestation Eté 96. Dissimulées dans un parterre de fleurs ou accrochées au cimaises d'un mur, les œuvres de nombreux artistes contemporains se sont emparées de ce centre d'arts.

Initiée l'année passée seulement, la série des Etés de Darat al Funun semble être déjà devenue rituelle, s'étalant de la fin du mois d'août au début du mois d'octobre. Situé sur les ruines d'une basilique byzantine elle-même construite sur les restes d'un temple romain, au pied d'une colline terrassée qui cache dans son jardin luxuriant une résidence célèbre par les personnalités qui l'ont habitée, le sanctuaire culturel de Darat al Funun prend une forme comme par magie et participe activement au processus artistique du pays.

Dans ce havre privilégié, des artistes jordaniens, déjà consacrés ou en voie de s'affirmer, engagent un dialogue pan-

arabe ouvert et créatif avec leurs confrères venant du monde entier, dans un langage moderne et diversifié.

Le jardin et le studio de sculpture en plein air accueillent des formes artistiques qui brisent la dimension traditionnelle de l'art. «C'est la liberté que l'artiste prend quand il se laisse porter par l'instinct de son atelier, à la quête en «aria aperta» des autres valeurs de la communication entre objets, matière, espace et ouverture d'esprit», explique le critique d'art Dr. Mazen Asfour.

L'exposition «Eté 96» mise sur le jeu espace ouvert/espace fermé, ainsi que sur le rapport plus profond entre modernisme et classicisme de l'art contem-

porain jordanien qui se définit, selon le même critique, par un «dilettantisme productif» dans le sens où un large éventail de choix stylistiques contribue à l'enrichissement du goût et de la perception artistique.

«Ce que l'on a voulu montrer cet été, c'est quelque chose de nouveau et de novateur», explique Ali Fawaz Maher, directeur de la Fondation Shoman Darat al Funun. Dans cette optique, les artistes rassemblés à Darat al Funun se sont concentrés sur l'expérimentation. Pendant toute l'année, plusieurs ateliers ont été organisés sous la coordination de personnalités du monde des arts. Les résultats saisissants de ces expériences sont présentés dans cinq des neuf expositions actuelles.

L'exposition *Al Basha*, née autour d'un concept proposé par Nasser Soumi, est l'œuvre collective de huit artistes. Les créateurs installent des objets concrets (fruits, plantes séchées, tissus, ...) provenant de Jordanie «la seule condition avancée», dans des caisses en bois aussi insignifiantes que celles trouvées dans n'importe quel marché de la ville.

Ainsi ces modestes caisses deviennent des objets artistiques à leur tour grâce à ce procédé d'installation. Ce terme définit une nouvelle forme d'art qui évolue en fonction de l'espace et du temps. La philosophie sous-jacente est celle de la «communauté par la transformation» et «l'infini des possibilités que l'art offre», selon M. Soumi.

Le jardin de Darat al Funun se prête à merveille à la stratégie consistant à confier un pouvoir sans précédent au cadre, caractéristique typique de l'art conceptuel. L'exposition portant sur des pyramides de miroirs démontre que tout est possible quand l'imagination est sans limite. Sous les jeux de lumière, la beauté naturelle est reflétée et perçue à un double

niveau: le visiteur saisit l'objet d'art dans un contexte inédit et simultanément, la nature semble se découvrir elle-même d'une façon narcissique dans les facettes multiples du miroir.

La même philosophie se laisse deviner dans la sculpture de l'Irakien Ali Taleb. Un immense visage androgyne couché dans le jardin persiste à regarder le ciel après la mort. Il est entré dans le cycle infini de la nature. La dialectique de la vie et de la mort rendue ici par la relation organique/non-organique est doublée par la fusion qui se réalise entre l'art et la nature.

«Un appétit profond de tradition»

Une autre artiste irakienne, Nuha Al radi, s'est proménée dans le labyrinthe du jardin de Darat al Funun l'année passée. L'exposition qu'elle avait alors présentée, *L'art de l'embarge*, est toujours là. Ses créatures zoomorphiques et personnages humains, des bonshommes faits de matières les plus humbles (pierres, pièces de récupération, ...) ont débordé dans un monde absurde et suffoquant et sont restés paralysés dans leur étonnement perpétuel. Dispersés dans le jardin, ces êtres bizarres se sont faits adopter et presque absorber par l'environnement qu'ils habitent depuis un an.

La quête de la liberté artistique continue à Darat al Funun dans les ruines de l'église byzantine où l'on découvre avec émotion des mosaïques réalisées par des élèves de l'école de Madaba. Cet été, les Mosaïques du paradis tiennent compagnie aux quelques fragments de l'ancienne mosaïque originale aux motifs floraux que l'on peut encore voir en



Une tête réalisée par Ali Taleb

face de la grotte.

La visite de cette exposition Eté 96 se poursuit ensuite dans les espaces fermés du centre. Les œuvres qui y sont présentées corroborent les propos du critique Mazen Asfour pour qui la nouvelle génération d'artistes jordaniens «est caractérisée par un appétit profond de tradition». Dans les galeries de Darat al Funun, le passé habite même les créations les plus novatrices.

Sous le toit de la maison bleue perchée en haut du jardin, l'architecte Ammar Kharramash, célèbre pour sa restauration et conservation de constructions antiques dont Darat al Funun, expose une série de photographies chargées d'histoire, de tradition et de sentiments. La confrontation avec le temps est dramatique. Des photos prises voilà douze ans dans de vieux villages jordaniens sont présentées aujourd'hui au public, alors que la plupart des maisons photographiées n'existent plus. Agées de 100 ou 150 ans, ces maisons ont été victimes du temps ou de l'urbanisation.

Cet été à Darat al Funun, les barrières du temps ont été supprimées et le mariage entre modernité et tradition consommé. Dans ces conditions, l'éclectisme dont parle Mazen Asfour ne peut être que positif.

Anca de Maio

Economie Un don de 100 millions

Dans les mois à venir, la Jordanie recevra 100 millions d'ECU de l'Union européenne dans le cadre de sa politique de réajustements économiques.

«En établissant un ratio par rapport au nombre d'habitants, la Jordanie est le pays le plus aidé de la zone méditerranéenne par l'Union européenne», explique Vincent Depaigne, responsable géographique pour la Jordanie auprès de l'Union européenne.

Avec l'annonce d'un don de 100 millions d'ECU (125 millions de dollars), l'Union européenne (UE) a tenu à rappeler son engagement économique auprès du royaume hachémite pour mener à bien son programme de réajustements économiques qui devrait lui permettre de signer prochainement un accord d'association euro-méditerranéenne.

Cette nouvelle aide est essentiellement destinée à combler en partie le déficit de la balance des paiements du pays. Elle devrait être versée en deux tranches, l'une de 60 millions d'ECU dès le mois d'octobre et l'autre en décembre.

Cette somme qualifiée d'«effort massif de l'Union européenne pour l'année 1996» par Vincent Depaigne, correspond au même montant d'aide distribuée par l'Union européenne à la Jordanie ces quatre dernières années. «Cette aide vient en soutien pour tout ce que la Jordanie a accompli ces dernières années dans le processus de paix. Il est nécessaire d'aider les économies des

pays qui jouent un rôle stabilisateur dans la région à se consolider», ajoute Vincent Depaigne.

Ce don de 100 millions d'ECU s'inscrit dans la ligne du programme européen MEDA adopté en juillet 1996 conformément aux principes de la déclaration euro-méditerranéenne de Barcelone. Un des objectifs de cette déclaration est de renforcer la coopération économique existant entre les pays membres de l'Union et douze pays méditerranéens pour arriver à la création d'une zone de libre-échange. Pour que ce partenariat soit possible, chaque pays de la zone méditerranéenne doit respecter un certain nombre de critères économiques. La Jordanie devrait prochainement signer cet accord, seuls quelques points, notamment dans le domaine agricole, nécessitant des négociations supplémentaires. Selon Yves Gazzo, représentant de l'UE à Amman, «la signature de cet accord devrait pouvoir avoir lieu avant la fin de l'année».

La Jordanie deviendrait ainsi éligible à une partie de l'aide de 12 milliards de dollars (près de 200 milliards de francs) que l'Union européenne a promis aux pays méditerranéens signataires sur les cinq années à venir.

Olivier Bras

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

«Le souper» d'Edouard Molinaro avec Claude Brasseur et Claude Rich.
Le 23/09 à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

Exposition

«Tapis volants». Une exposition réunissant jusqu'au 24 septembre au CCF des tapis réalisés par des artistes français ou originaires du Maghreb et du Moyen-Orient.



L'exposition Eté 96 est présentée jusqu'au 8 octobre au centre Darat al Funun, dans le quartier de Jebel Weibdeh

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	6610267	Concord Cinema	677430
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	694238
British Council	6361478	Philadelpia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Dana al Fann	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Bahadun Art Gallery	659132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hishani's Theatre	625155		

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Al Hussein Sports Club	607181/5
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
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Jordan Bridge Club	670690
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Arab Wings	894484
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Polish Airlines	625981
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Important Numbers

Emergencies

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Civil Defence H.Q.	193/108/109
Fire Brigade	622090/93
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Blind Bank	775121
Traffic Police	625943/639703
Traffic Accidents	897467/8
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Hospitals

Akleh Maternity	643441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/20
Al-Muhsin Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaled Maternity	642281/6
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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

STATION
NOTICE

Have you noticed?
Everyone is talking about the Internet and online services. The World Wide Web is running into the millions of homes. If you are not on the Internet, you are missing out. We and our readers want to know them.

The leased lines of the Internet and their costs:

A socialist utopia or an exploiter's haven?

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

A WHILE ago, the leftist Egyptian magazine *Al Yassar*, heralded the Internet as a "socialist phenomena" worthy of appreciation. The Internet—having no single owner and serving millions—embodied the cherished socialist notion of "each according to his capacity to each according to his need."

Unfortunately, this utopian claim doesn't survive the close scrutiny of the Internet which reveals the presence of the "exploiting" and the "exploited" amongst Internet servers and their users.

Being an Internet Service Provider (ISP) entails investing in a leased line to connect your workstation to another, that is already connected to the Internet.

The cost of leased lines vary according to their capacity (measured in bits/second) and their destination to leased line to Egypt costs less than a leased line to the US. For example, the leased line of 64 kbps that Global One/Sprint Jordan (Jordan's only ISP) uses to connect its servers to the US, costs a monthly fee of \$3,000.

As the Internet is basically the amalgamation of public and private Internet servers with varying costs of leased lines, it

becomes evident that costs are shouldered by the owners of these servers. A typical visit to an Internet server, through sending an email message or visiting a web page, would pass through an average of 10 intermediary servers, hence utilizing their leased lines without paying them for that use. Subscribers in Jordan, for instance, would pay their ISP who, in turn, would pay for its leased line fees to the Internet server to which it is directly connect-

tion to the Internet to direct traffic on the basis of the shortest path. This varies depending on the situation of the Internet servers at any given time. Routing happens through the proper direction of email messages and Internet traffic to the Domain Name Servers with their specific IP numbers, which serve specific domain names of the form "Arab.net" or "Nets.com.jo."

The "multi-homed" Internet servers (those with more than one leased line) are the "exploited" class, because they are the ones which act as intermediary servers that route traffic between multitudes of domain name servers. Thus many users use their leased line capacity without paying them for that use, even though the servers directly connected to them do.

The "exploiting class" of servers, consists of the Internet servers with only one leased line and whose Domain Name servers have no further sub-domains connected to them.

Jordan's ISP server was intentionally made a "dead-end line" so as to make sure the narrow bandwidth is only used by Jordanian subscribers and not used by the millions of Internet users that don't pay any subscription fees.

According to Mr. Nader Kassar from Global One, Jordan's Internet server doesn't have any servers that depend on it for routing Internet traffic.

Apple incorporates the latest processors in new Power Macintosh lines: PowerPCs defy the speed barriers

ONE MONTH after Motorola announced the introduction of its latest PowerPC processors, the 603e and the 604e, Apple has already announced a range of Power Macintosh computers that will utilize these processors.

Apple has launched its Performa 6400 range for multimedia and graphics applications, coming complete with full multimedia features including and costing around \$2,399 to \$2,799 on the international market.

Also, and as part of Apple's commitment to high-end users, the company is introducing the new Power Macintosh 9500 range, running at speeds of 180MHz and 200MHz, with 16MB RAM and huge hard disk space of up to 2 Gigabytes.

180MHz and 200MHz. These systems utilize the 604e processor. Old users of the Power Macintosh 9500 will be able to upgrade their systems, through a special card that also provides an additional 32 megabytes of RAM.

What makes the new 9500 range stand out is its ability to incorporate multiple processors (parallel processors), introducing affordable multiple processing to users.

Among the other additions to the Power Macintosh range will be the Power Mac 8500 running at 180 MHz and the Power Mac 7200 running at 132 MHz. The idea behind this massive jump in speed and the utilization of multiple processing is to serve power users in fields like desktop publishing, video editing and others.

Current Power Macintosh users will be provided with an upgrade option, by which their

systems will go all the way up to 180 MHz.

On another track, there is news that Apple's engineers are working on a new line of computers to be called 'Power Express', or 'Power Mac Pro'. These will be PowerPC systems that utilize the 604e processor, running at speeds of 250, 225 and 280MHz.

Apple has unveiled its plans to Macintosh licensees like Power Computing and others, in order to maintain simultaneous development and to guarantee that the latest PowerPC systems will create the required impact.

IBM and Motorola are currently working towards laying the basis for the third and fourth generations (G3 & G4) of PowerPC processors. With the fourth generation, it is expected that PowerPC systems will hit the 600 MHz speed mark. ■

Free upgrades to NetWare 4.11 & GroupWise 5

NOVELL HAS announced a free upgrade programme to GroupWise 5 for customers of GroupWise, SoftSolutions and MHS; the upgrade also applies to NetWare 4.1 customers who will be entitled to a free upgrade to NetWare 4.11 (formerly Green River, Both GroupWise 5 and NetWare 4.11 are currently in open beta).

The GroupWise 5 upgrade promotion began on 1 August, and will end 30 days after

GroupWise 5 ships. However, applicants must register for their upgrade no later than January 31, 1997.

The NetWare 4.11 upgrade promotion starts August 15, 1996 and will continue for 30 days after NetWare 4.11 ships. The NetWare promotion is open to all customers who purchase NetWare 4.1 within that time period.

The deadline for submitting applications for free NetWare

upgrades will be 60 days after NetWare 4.11 ships.

This promotion rewards customers who take advantage of their technology now," said Chris Solomon, technical manager at Novell Middle East.

"Customers who need our technology today can buy with the assurance that they are guaranteed a migration path to the next generation of technology, as well as the most competitive pricing possible." ■

News update

Acer announces 200MHz system

Acer Computer has announced its first 200MHz Intel Pentium system, putting Acer systems at the absolute top speed available.

Intel developed the Pentium 200MHz processor on the basis of 35 Micron technology, which is very advanced. Users can expect blistering speed on demanding applications like multimedia and business.

For more information on availability of the latest Acer 200MHz range, contact Tanish Information Technology Group (ITISG) at telephone 689252 or Special Systems Services (SSC) at telephone 682131; both of whom represent Acer in Jordan.

Epson introduces its first Windows Printer

Epson has recently announced its first 600 dpi printer based on the Windows printing system (WPS). The new EPL-5500W is a laser printer aimed at the small and home business sector, catering for users in need of fast quality printing, as it provides six pages per minute. The printer was developed in cooperation with Microsoft to utilize the advantages offered by WPS, which surpasses the standard Graphics Device Interface for printers under Windows. The WPS converts data headed towards the printer into Source Description Code, rather than the regular method of converting into bitmap files.



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Maradona to seek medical advice about playing future

LONDON—Diego Maradona, who said two weeks ago he had played his last soccer game, will seek medical advice next week about continuing his career.

The 35-year-old Argentine, once regarded as the world's best soccer player, arrived in London Saturday on a flight from Madrid to give out awards Sunday at a junior soccer tournament.

Although he declined to speak with reporters, members of his entourage said he would go to Alicante, Spain on Monday for medical advice about his playing future.

The 35-year-old Argentine, who completed a 10-day treat-

ment program for drug abuse last month in Switzerland, has been on a "semi-holiday" in recent weeks in Canada and the Caribbean.

Two weeks ago in Canada, he played what was billed as the last game of his career. He scored the winning goal in a game between his brother Lalo's Toronto-based Italia team and a team of all-stars from the seven-team Canadian National Soccer League.

Maradona entered the Swiss drug treatment program after he was harshly criticized for missing five straight penalties for his Boca Juniors club. He is still under contract with the Boca team. ■



FA brings in breath tests for players

By John Goodbody

LONDON—Soccer players are to undergo random breath tests after matches and training sessions as the Football Association begins a new drive to warn of the dangers of alcohol.

The governing body's concern has

been heightened by the revelation at the weekend from Tony Adams, the England defender and Arsenal captain, that he is an alcoholic, while Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, has spoken of his worry about the "pop-star lifestyles" of some leading players.

The FA emphasized that it had planned to introduce these tests before the admission of Adams.

However, after several drugs scandals in football, the FA is increasingly worried about the reputation of the national game.

Stere Double, an FA spokesman, said: "We will be testing players at every

professional League club this season, either after matches or at the end of training sessions."

"Last season, we announced a program of 500 drugs tests that would be carried out and, as part of this process, a substantial proportion will include breath-testing players for the presence of alcohol."

Double said that a positive test for alcohol would be registered where a player recorded a reading above the drink-drive limit of 35 micrograms per 100 millilitres of breath. "The object of the exercise is to identify those players who do have a problem and bring this to the attention of the club's medical staff," he added.

In the past two years, Paul Merson, Adams's Arsenal colleague, has admitted using cocaine, and Roger Stanislaus, the Leyton Orient defender, tested positive for the same drug. In this period, eight professional players have been found to have taken marijuana and one has tested positive for amphetamines. ■

